



**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC  
ORGANIZATIONS  
(TAIAO)  
SUBCHAPTER N  
Volleyball Athletic Plan  
(June 1, 2015)**

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Except to the extent otherwise provided, the Volleyball Plan is governed by and subject to the General Rules of TAI AO.

## PART A - Division Alignment

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The Rules in Subchapter J - "Classifications and Districts" also apply to this Subchapter N, Part A.

### Section 600 - Biannual Realignment

- A. Prior to the 1st of April of 2016 and each even numbered year thereafter, TAI AO shall review and update Division assignments for all member organizations who were members in good standing in TAI AO as of January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- B. Within 7 calendar days of publication of the Division assignments any member organization may, as provided in Section 252, request reassignment to a larger or smaller classification.
- C. The Volleyball Committee will respond to all timely filed appeals by the 15th of April.

### Section 601 - New Member Organizations

- A. Upon admission to TAI AO, each new member organization shall be assigned to a Division by the Volleyball Committee.

### Section 602 - Division Assignment

- A. **Division Assignment.** Division assignment will be determined as follows:
  - 1. **Division 1A** - A Roster Count of 15 players or less.
  - 2. **Division 2A** - Either;
    - a. A Roster Count of 16 players or more; or,
    - b. 7 seasons or more combined player experience in Club/Select play.
  - 3. **First Year Exception.** Division assignment for a member organization's inaugural season (assuming less than 7 seasons of cumulative player experience in Club/Select Play) will be Division 1A regardless of the Roster Count.

*Example 1: Team A has 12 girls; 6 of which have previously or currently play on a select/club volleyball team in the offseason, with the team having a combined select/club participation of 7 seasons or more. Team A would be placed in the higher division (Division 2A).*

*Example 2: Team B has 15 players; none of which have previously participated or currently participate in select/club volleyball. Team B would then be placed in the lower division (Division 1A).*

*Example 3: Team C is a new program that has 20 players; none of which have previously participated or currently participate in select/club volleyball. Team C could be classified as Division 1A. This exception is to be made only in first year programs.*

**B. Roster Data.**

1. Each January, every member organization shall forward their Roster Data to the TIAAO Volleyball Commissioner.
2. Roster Data shall include each member organization's expected high school volleyball player count for the upcoming fall season. This head count shall include all expected volleyball players who will participate at the High School level between 14 to 18 years of age as of September 1<sup>st</sup> of the corresponding current calendar year.
3. The Roster Data shall include the number of seasons of Club/Select volleyball experience of each player.
4. All member organizations shall use the TIAAO Roster Form provided by the Volleyball Committee.
5. The Roster Data shall be used to determine the member organization's current Roster Count.
6. Roster Data for any organization applying for membership in TIAAO shall be submitted with its league application.

**C. Roster Count.** Unless otherwise provided by the Volleyball Committee, the most current Roster Data shall be considered the official Roster Count of each member organization.

## **Section 603 - Organized Practices, Club/Select Teams and School Club Teams**

**A. Organized Practices defined.**

1. Volleyball organized practice is interpreted to include organized instruction in volleyball formations or individual and/or team skills.
2. The following activities are typical "practice activities" included in organized practices:
  - a. Actual on-court practice
  - b. Sport-specific skill instruction
  - c. Mandatory conditioning
3. The following activities are not considered "practice activities":
  - a. Meetings
  - b. Film Study
  - c. Injury Treatment
  - d. Weight Training
  - e. Water Breaks
  - f. Rest Breaks
  - g. Voluntary Conditioning (may not be coach directed)

**B. When Allowed.** Except for player participation on Club/Select teams, organized practices are only allowed during Spring Training and the Regular Season (to include post season playoffs).

**C. Club/Select and School Club Teams definitions.**

1. A Club/Select Team is defined as a volleyball team not sponsored by a member organization which requires tryouts and has no more than 4 players from any one member organization on its team roster.

2. A School Club Team is defined as a member organization sponsored volleyball team which is comprised of players from one or more member organizations.

**D. Club/Select and School Club team participation.**

1. Players may participate on Club/Select teams during the Off Season and Summer.
2. At no time may players participate on a School Club team outside of the Regular Season and Spring Training.

**Section 604 is reserved for expansion.**

**Section 605 - Official Rosters and Eligibility** (*See also Section 236 - Eligibility*)

- A. All High School volleyball players and coaches, regardless of classification, shall be included on the appropriate team roster in [MaxPreps.com](http://MaxPreps.com).
- B. Rosters can be adjusted until **September 15th** at which time the Roster in MaxPreps becomes the FINAL and Official Roster for the team for the remainder of the season. Players who are temporarily ineligible for academic or other reasons are to be included on the Final Roster.
- C. The Roster information shall include:
  1. For each player
    - a. First and Last Name
    - b. Jersey Number
    - c. Grade Classification
    - d. Date of Birth
    - e. Approximate Height
  2. For each Coach
    - a. First and Last Name
    - b. Coaching assignment/responsibilities

**Section 606 is reserved for expansion.**

## PART B - Off Season, Spring Training & Summer

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The Rules in Subchapter K - "General Plan" also apply to this Subchapter N, Part B.

### Section 607 - Calendar

- A. The TIAAO calendar for Volleyball, other than the Regular Season, shall be as follows:
  - 1. **Off Season.** From the conclusion of the Regular Season (*See Section 621 below*) through May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - 2. **Spring Training.** Beginning no earlier than March 1<sup>st</sup> and ending no later than May 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - 3. **Summer.** Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup> and ending July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Section 608 - Off Season (*See Section 264 of the General Rules*)

- A. Off Season workouts can be held anytime other than Spring Training or the Regular Season.
- B. Off Season workouts may include accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual skills, strength training and conditioning exercises may be conducted starting no earlier than 6:00 AM and concluding no later than 8:00 PM.
- C. Off Season workouts shall not:
  - 1. Exceed one continuous period of up to but not to exceed 90 minutes per day; and,
  - 2. A total of 300 minutes per week.
- D. Coaches shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation in Off Season activities is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a volleyball team or getting more playing time.

### Section 609 - Member Organization Facilities Use (Off Season) *See Section 262 of the General Rules*

### Section 610 - Spring Training

- A. Spring Volleyball Workouts ("Spring Training") for each member organization shall be an optional activity.
- B. A team shall have:
  - 1. No more than 18 total practice days,
  - 2. Only one practice session per day,
  - 3. No practice which exceeds 3 hours,
  - 4. A maximum of 12 hours per week.

**C. Activities**

1. Organized practices, including organized team and individual instruction in volleyball plays, formations or team skills.
2. No contests (matches or scrimmages) with other schools are allowed.
3. No Sunday activities unless authorized by TAIAO.

**Section 611 - Summer Activities** (*See Section 265 of the General Rules*)

- A. Summer activities shall be an optional activity.
- B. Summer activities may include accelerated physical education activities, calisthenics, individual skills, strength training and conditioning exercises may be conducted starting no earlier than 6:00 AM and concluding no later than 9:00 PM.
- C. Summer activities shall not:
  1. Exceed 2 hours per day; and,
  2. A total of 8 hours per week.
- D. Coaches shall make every effort to see that students understand that participation in Summer activities is strictly voluntary and never required. Participation shall not be a prerequisite for trying out for a volleyball team or getting more playing time.

**Section 612 - Member Organization Facility Use (Summer)** *See Section 262 of the General Rules*

Sections 613 to 620 are reserved for expansion.

## PART C - Regular Season

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### Section 621 - Calendar

- A. The TIAAO calendar for Volleyball for the Regular Season shall be 11 weeks beginning the first Monday in August. Provided however, that Organized Practices may begin August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Section 622 - Practice Schedules

- A. Regular Season Practices.
  - 1. Beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing until the end of Post Season play, only one organized practice per day may be scheduled.
  - 2. The maximum length of an organized practice shall not exceed three hours.

### Section 623 - Pre-Season Scrimmages

- A. No member organization shall participate in more than 5 scrimmages.
- B. No scrimmages are allowed after 1<sup>st</sup> official game has been played.

### Section 624 - Regular Season Matches

- A. Match Schedule
  - 1. Regular Season matches may begin as early as the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of August. The Regular Season will conclude on the Saturday of Week 11.
  - 2. No matches will be scheduled on Sunday.
- B. Match Participation Limits.
  - 1. **Season Limits.** The maximum number of regular season matches in which a member organization and player may participate shall be limited as follows:
    - a. 0 Tournaments and 27 matches
    - b. 1 Tournament and 25 matches
    - c. 2 Tournaments and 23 matches
    - d. 3 Tournaments and 21 matches
  - 2. **Weekly Limits.** No member organization or player may schedule or participate in more than 3 varsity matches in one calendar week (Monday through Saturday).
  - 3. **Junior Varsity Participation.** Junior Varsity players may be allowed to dress out for varsity matches as long as it does not exceed the weekly 3 match limits allotted to each player.



## PART D - Game Administration

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The Rules in Subchapter K - "General Plan" also apply to this Subchapter N, Part D.

### Section 625 - Match Rules

- A. All volleyball matches shall be governed by the National Federation of High Schools Volleyball Rules.
- B. Regulation Play - see UIL rules (<https://www.uiltexas.org/volleyball/rules-guidelines>)

### Section 626 - Post Match Reporting Requirements

- A. Match Statistics
  1. Posting of match statistics (both team and individual statistics) shall be kept current. Statistics must be posted **no later than 1 week following the date the game was played.**
  2. The timely entry of statistics will be monitored.
  3. Failure to keep statistics current will result in disciplinary action up to and including non-qualification for post-season player honors.

### Section 627 - Pre- and Post- Game Activities

- A. Prayer Encouraged
  1. At each contest between TAIIO member organizations, pre-game and post-game prayer is encouraged (not required).
  2. When a TAIIO member organization is playing a non TAIIO School, the TAIIO member organization is encouraged to offer to pray before or after the game with the non TAIIO School.

### Section 628 - Tickets & Admissions - Regular Season Matches (*See Section 267.D. of the General Rules*)

### Section 629 - Match Officials - Regular Season Matches

- A. All Match officials shall be UIL Certified, TASO Certified and TAIIO approved.
- B. A minimum of 1 official is required. If officials do not show and the visiting coach elects to play the game, the game can proceed without forfeit.

### Sections 630 - 640 are reserved for expansion

## PART E - Equipment

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### Section 641 - Equipment

#### A. Volleyballs

1. All varsity game balls shall be NFHS-approved. These balls are subject to the approval of the match official.
2. Home team will provide match balls unless otherwise agreed by both coaches.
3. Home team is not responsible for provision of pre-game warm-up balls or water to visiting teams.

#### B. Uniforms and Equipment

1. Volleyball equipment/uniform requirements are as listed in NCAA Rule 7.1.2-3.

Sections 642 - 644 are reserved for expansion.

## PART F - Post Season Play

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### Section 645 - Calendar

- A. The TIAAO calendar for Volleyball for Post Season play shall begin with week 12 and continue as determined by the Volleyball Committee on an annual basis.

### Section 646 - Practice Schedules

- A. Post Season Practices.
  - 1. Beginning with week 12 and continuing until the end of Post Season play, only one Organized Practice per day may be scheduled.
  - 2. The maximum length of an Organized Practice shall not exceed three hours.

### Section 647 - Post Season Play

- A. Minimum Match Requirement.
  - 1. Member organizations are required to play a minimum of 6 Regular Season matches to qualify for Post Season play.
  - 2. Players are required to participate in a minimum of 6 Regular Season matches to qualify for Post Season play.
- B. Playoff Selection. The Volleyball Committee shall be responsible for determination of the member organizations teams participating in the playoffs for each Division.
- C. Post Season Playoff Brackets.
  - 1. For 2015 and 2016, the Volleyball Committee shall be responsible for preparation of each Divisional Playoff bracket. The brackets shall be prepared after Week 11 results are complete.
  - 2. Each bracket shall be ready for posting by Wednesday of Week 12.

### Section 648 - Team Rosters

- A. Team rosters of all playoff-qualifying teams must be submitted to the Volleyball Committee Chairman by Friday of Week 11 to be assured of being included in post season participation. The roster form approved by the TIAAO Volleyball Committee will be the only form acceptable.

### Section 649 - State Tournament

- A. State Tournament.
  - 1. In 2015 the TIAAO State Tournament for each Division shall consist of a double elimination tournament.

2. The State Tournament shall be a combined tournament for all Divisions and shall be played at a "central location" designated by TAI AO.
  3. TAI AO shall manage all game day activities.
- B. Passes.** All match and season passes issued by any member organization are suspended for the State Tournament.
- C. Tickets & Admissions.**
1. TAI AO will use its best efforts to choose playoff locations in a manner to appropriately "size" the location to the expected crowd and to create an admission fee that is reasonable.
  2. The TAI AO Steering Committee, taking into account the venue, the expense of the event, the impact on expected spectator population and the overall TAI AO organizational welfare, shall determine ticket prices for the State Tournament. This policy is consistent with those procedures used by like organizations and is the guidance that will be applicable to all TAI AO activities.
  3. Coaches, players, officials and primary match personnel (team managers, trainers, etc.) are exempt from paying admission.

**Sections 650 - 659 are reserved for future expansion.**

## PART G - Post Season Honors and All Star Games

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*(For the 2015 Season, Post Season Honors will consist of All-State only.)*

### Section 660 - Player Honors; Eligibility and Statistics

- A. The purpose of awarding Post Season Honors to players is to recognize exceptional talent and performance of an individual player as consistently demonstrated throughout the season.
- B. A player shall have played in at least 6 regular season matches in order to qualify for this recognition.
- C. Statistics for the individual player shall be maintained at the member organization's website in MaxPreps.
  - 1. Individual player statistics must be kept current (*as required in Section 626*) and shall be as accurate as possible.
  - 2. Failure to post statistics as required will disqualify a student from consideration.

### Section 661 - All-State Honors

- A. TIAAO Volleyball Honors will recognize All-State honors with a 1<sup>st</sup> team, 2<sup>nd</sup> team, and Honorable Mention for each Division.
- B. There may be up to 12 players on each team.
- C. Prior to 12:00 noon on Friday of Week 11, the Volleyball Committee Chairman shall convene (in person or by conference call) one meeting for the purpose of determining All-State Honors.
- D. Each All-State player shall be selected by a majority of the head coaches in attendance.

### Section 662 - All-Star Matches (*See Section 271 of the General Rules*).

- A. **Player Selection.**
  - 1. Player selections for each All Star game shall be from the players previously named and recognized as 1st Team and 2nd team All-State selections.
  - 2. The teams shall be selected and balanced by the Volleyball Committee to provide fair and competitive play.
- B. **Coach Guidelines.**
  - 1. Each All Star Coach accepting the invitation is expected to fulfill the guidelines provided and make every effort to play each athlete on the roster.

Sections 663 & 664 are reserved for expansion

## PART H - Removal from Contest

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The Rules in Subchapter I - "Discipline, Protests & Appeals" also apply to this Subchapter N. Part H.

### Section 665 - Removal from Contest

- A. Incident Report.** Any coach or player ejected from a contest shall:
1. File an Incident Report with the TAIIO Volleyball Committee Chairman on the TAIIO authorized form.
    - a. The Incident Report is due by noon the following the second school day following the match.
  2. Provide the opposing team's head coach with a copy of the filed Incident Report.
  3. Member organizations who fail to properly report an ejection are subject to further sanctions.
- B. Discipline.**
1. The TAIIO Volleyball Committee Chairman shall be free to determine appropriate discipline in addition to the minimum sanctions listed below.
  2. **Minimum Sanctions:**
    - a. **Players**
      - i. Any player ejected from a contest shall be suspended from the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAIIO Office.
      - ii. Any player ejected from a contest for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time within the same season shall be suspended from the next 2 contests as shown on the schedule.
      - iii. Any player ejected from a contest for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time within the same season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season (including post season).
    - b. **Coaches**
      - i. Any coach ejected from a contest shall receive a private reprimand AND shall be suspended from the next scheduled contest as shown on the schedule submitted prior to the season to the TAIIO Office.
      - ii. Any coach ejected from a contest for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time within the same season shall receive a public reprimand AND shall be suspended from the next 2 contests as shown on the schedule.
      - iii. Any coach ejected from a contest for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time within the same season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season (including post season).
- C.** If a total of three ejections, coaches and players combined, are received by a member organization during the season, the athletic director and coaching staff of the member organization will be required to meet with the TAIIO Volleyball Committee Chairman.

## **Section 666 - Dispute with an Official**

- A. A coach or player who deliberately comes into physical contact with, or threatens to harm an official shall receive a minimum five (5) game suspension.

**Sections 667 - 680 are reserved for expansion**

## PART I - Coach Training and Certification Concussions

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Section 681 - Coach Training & Certification (*See Section 269 of the General Rules*).

### Section 682 - Concussions

- A. In addition to required training, every TIAAO head football coach will follow the UIL mandated protocol related to any student who shows signs, symptoms or behaviors associated with a concussion, which include the following:
1. Immediate removal from the contest or practice
  2. May not return to play on the same day
  3. Shall not return until cleared to play by an appropriate health-care professional
  4. Return to Play protocol shall, at a minimum, include the following:
    - a. Day 1 - 24 hours symptom free
    - b. Day 2 - light aerobic exercise; 5 to 10 minutes of light workout
    - c. Day 3 - Moderate aerobic exercise; 15 -20 minutes of running at moderate intensity
    - d. Day 4 - Non-contact training drills in full uniform; weight training and resistance training permitted
    - e. Day 5 - Full contact practice or training
    - f. Day 6 - Eligible for game play



## PART J - Videotaping and Filming

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Section 683 - Media, Videotaping and Filming (*See Section 272 of the General Rules*).

## PART K - Middle School Volleyball

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Rules in Sections 607-612, 622, 625-629, 641, 665-666 also apply to Middle School Volleyball.

### Section 684 - Season Calendar

- A. The TIAO calendar for Middle School Pre-Season and Regular Season Volleyball shall be 11 weeks beginning with the first Monday of August.

### Section 685 - Eligibility

- A. Participation in TIAO Middle School volleyball is open to students who:
  - 1. Will reach their 11th birthday no later than September 1st of the current season and will not have reached their 15th birthday earlier than September 1st of the current season; and,
  - 2. Students may have up to four consecutive years of eligibility at the Middle School Level.
  - 3. To the extent allowed by Section 236 of the TIAO General Rules, eighth-graders are eligible to play at the High School level.
- B. A member organization may adopt eligibility rules related to Middle School participation that are more stringent than TIAO rules for eligibility (including academic eligibility).
- C. Questions concerning eligibility shall be referred to the Volleyball Committee for review and a decision.

### Section 686 - Matches

- A. A maximum of 23 regular season matches are allowed beginning in Week 1 and ending Week 11.
- B. Member organizations may participate in volleyball tournaments during the regular season. Each tournament will count as 2 matches toward the season maximum.

### Section 687 - Game Officials

- A. All match officials shall be UIL Certified, TASO Certified and TIAO approved.
- B. A minimum of 1 certified official must call the match. If the visiting coach elects to play the match without certified officials, the match will count without forfeit; otherwise, a scrimmage can be played.

### Section 688 - Post Season

- A. Post Season for TIAO Middle School programs will consist of one end of the year double elimination tournament. The tournament shall be scheduled

and coordinated by the TAI AO Volleyball Committee.

- B. Seeding for each Division shall be done by the Volleyball Committee based on the following, in this order:
1. Win-Loss record
  2. Head to Head competition (if applicable)
  3. Common Opponents (if applicable)
  4. Coaches agreement