

VOLLEYBALL SEEDING PROCEDURES 2025

Before the Seeding Meeting – all divisions

1. Meetings shall be scheduled for boys/girls; one of the following - October 12, 13, 14, 15, or 16.
2. Boys: Seed meeting hosts should contact all schools in their grouping to determine if the majority of schools wish to conduct a traditional meeting (in-person) or use a method determined by the host (Zoom, G-Meet, email, etc.). Girls: Seed meetings must be conducted in person or via real-time electronic means (Zoom, G-Matt, etc.). Coaches who must travel more than 80 miles one-way to the seeding meeting site may choose to participate in the seeding meeting using real-time, video or electronic means as determined by the host school.
3. If coaches have accurately compiled schedules and scores in the WIAA Score Center, click the “season summary” to obtain a “season summary form” for seeding. If your scores are incomplete you must complete the form online or by hand; the form is on the WIAA website.
4. Only matches played in a two-out-of-three or three-out-of-five (25 point sets) format should be reported on the Season Summary Form.
5. Specific questions regarding the date and time for the Seeding Meeting should be discussed with the Athletic Director of the school hosting your Seeding Meeting.

At the Seeding Meeting

1. Coaches are required to participate in Seeding Meetings. If the head varsity coach cannot attend the Seeding Meeting, then an assistant coach or a school representative should attend. If a school is not represented at the Seeding Meeting, their school may still be seeded, if appropriate. If the

school is not deserving of a seed, they may be ranked/positioned last. Host AD should report schools without representation at the seeding meeting to the WIAA office.

2. Each school will designate one person to speak on behalf of their school.
3. Prior to the start of the meeting:
 - a. Introductions of all in attendance
 - b. Each coach will update his/her season summary
 - c. The host will have the coaches draw to determine order of presentations. Each coach will be allowed three minutes to discuss their season.
4. Coaches should consider these factors when determining their seeds (list is in no particular order):
 - a. Coaches comments
 - b. Head-to-head competition against teams in their grouping
 - c. Comparative scores against like opponents
 - d. Conference standings
 - e. Relative strength of schedule
 - f. Overall win-loss record
 - g. Other special factors (e.g., injury of a key player, etc.)
5. Once everyone has had the opportunity to speak, coaches should complete their Ranking Sheet. **Coaches are not allowed to rank their own team.**
6. After all Ranking Sheets are turned in, the individual conducting the Seeding Meeting will record the ballots of each school alphabetically **in a visible manner.**
7. The rankings shall be tallied and initial seeds will be determined.

8. Follow the steps below for breaking ties and appeals to conclude your seeding process.
9. Once seeds are finalized, the host AD should complete and submit the bracket on the WIAA website.

Breaking Ties

If a tie results during seeding, move to the tie-breaking procedure below:

1. The coaches involved in the tie shall have one minute to state his/her claims to the higher seeded position.
2. All coaches not involved in the tie will have one vote to determine which team gets the higher seeded position. The Seeding Meeting host will ask coaches to vote for the team that should receive the higher seeded position. No coach is allowed to abstain from voting.
3. After all ballots are turned in the Seeding Meeting host will record the ballots in a visible manner.
4. The team with the most votes receives the higher seeded position.
5. If the vote results in a tie, repeat this procedure.
6. If after two attempts, the tied vote remains, a coin flip will determine the higher seeded team.

Appeal Procedure

If a team feels it should have received a higher seeded position, once the votes have been tabulated, it may appeal its position relative to that of any other team. The following procedures shall be used:

1. Appeals may NOT be made for a lower seed. Always start from last seed and work toward the top seed when working through the appeal process.

2. The coach making the appeal shall have one minute to state his/her claims to the higher seeded position. The coach of the team being challenged will then have one minute to state his/her claim to that position.
3. All coaches NOT involved in the appeal will have one vote to determine which team gets the higher seeded position. No coach is allowed to abstain from voting.
4. After all ballots are turned in the Seeding Meeting host will record the ballots of each school alphabetically in a visible manner.
5. The team with the most votes receives the higher seeded position.
6. A team may make any number of appeals, but an appeal between the same teams cannot be repeated. Teams may only appeal one seed higher at a time. Example: School is seeded 6 and feels they should be the 4 seed. First, they must appeal for the 5 seed. If successful in obtaining the 5 seed, they could then appeal for the 4 seed.
7. **If a tie vote occurs on an appeal, the original placement shall stand.**
8. A team cannot appeal a tie-breaking vote.

All disagreements regarding seeding must be settled at this meeting. Once the meeting is over, the seeds are final. The WIAA will not change the results of your seeding meeting or hear appeals.

Following the Seeding Meeting

1. Please do NOT release any of the bracket information to the media. Inform the participating coaches of this as well. Completed brackets will be posted on our website www.wiaawi.org.

2. Tell coaches to please notify their athletic director if they will/will not be hosting a first round regional game. All athletic directors will also receive an email with the completed bracket.
3. Athletic directors will be notified by the WIAA if their school was not represented at the seeding meeting.
4. During regional and sectional play, if a disqualifying violation is confirmed after brackets have been seeded, the opportunity of the disqualified team shall advance regardless of their bracket position and no other adjustments shall be made within the bracket.
5. During regional and sectional play, if a team is not able to continue, the most recently defeated team will be offered the opportunity to advance in the tournament.