



Athletic Directors Advisory Committee – Agenda Item

Site: Robert W. Hughes FHSAA Building, Gainesville

Date: January 16, 2019

Rule Reference(s):	Action: X	Discussion:
Item: Sanctioning Beach Volleyball		
Background Information: Sport is growing in Florida		
Recommendation: Beach Volleyball is a growing sport and now being played in the NCAA and growing across the state of Florida in High Schools		
Rationale: Continue to grow the game of volleyball		
Alternative to Recommendation:		
Data Source: Played from March to May (Spring Season)		

Committees Voting Summary:

GVBAC 7-0

Impact (To be completed by FHSAA Staff):

Jen Darty _____
Name of Committee Member

Signature of Committee Member



PROPOSAL TO SANCTION HIGH SCHOOL BEACH VOLLEYBALL



*presented by Jen Darty (Oviedo High School) & Juanita Hitt (Hagerty High School)
on behalf of the Girls Volleyball Advisory Committee*

STARTING A PROGRAM

- **Head Coach & Players**
- **Facilities:** on campus or near campus, doesn't conflict with any other sport
- **Equipment:** volleyballs for games & practice, team jersey
- **Administration Support**

FACILITIES

- Ideal facility has **three beach courts** to host a team dual.
 - Team dual starts with the #4, #5 and exhibition pairs competing followed by the #1, #2, and #3 matches.
- Numerous high schools are **adding beach courts** on campus.
 - In Seminole County, of our 8 schools, three have at least three courts **on campus** and two have **neighboring parks**. The other three share court space with the on campus programs or parks.
 - In Leon County, of their 6 schools, one has a court **on campus** and the other five use **neighboring parks**.
 - It can be done **on a budget**. Sand is the most expensive portion.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- **Cost to the School and/or County:** coaching supplement (will vary by county)
- **Cost to the Beach Volleyball Program:** volleyballs, team jersey
- **Other Potential Costs:** building a facility or renting a facility if there is a charge (many schools and parks will allow facility use or sharing free of charge), officials

FORMAT FOR COMPETITION

- Each school will be made up of **five pairs** (doubles teams) stacked by skill level along with an exhibition team.
 - Coaches are responsible to position their teams in order of ability for all matches from a #1 pair down to a #5 pair.
 - The exhibition pair can scrimmage the other school's exhibition pair and serve as a sub for an injured player if needed.
- In a team head-to-head competition, known as a **team dual**, all **five pairs** would play each other in a match.
 - Similar to the format of tennis, the 1-pair from School A would play the 1-pair from School B, and so on.
 - A beach volleyball match is two sets played to 21 points with a third set to 15 points, if needed.
 - The school that wins **three out of five matches** wins the team dual.

ROSTER SIZE

- For team duals, **12 players** are needed within the five pairs plus exhibition pair. However, it is encouraged for a team can carry **additional players** on their roster.
 - This allows more room for pair changes and inter-squad competition throughout the season.
 - It also provides **more opportunities** to have female student-athletes participating in Athletics as mentioned in Title IX.

CURRENT TIMELINES

- **Sunshine State Athletic Conference**
 - February 4-April 27, 2019

- only conference in the state to offer Girls Beach Volleyball as a sanctioned sport with 40+ schools competing
- **Florida High School County-Based Leagues**
 - Leon County: March 25-May 2, 2019 (6 schools competing)
 - Seminole County: March 25-May 9, 2019 (8 schools competing)
- **NCAA:**
 - Regular Season begins the week of February 18, 2019
 - National Championship on May 3-5, 2019

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Spring Sport from Week 32-Week 44

Season Start Date: February 4, 2019 (Week 32)

Regular Season: February 18-April 20, 2019 (Week 34-42)

State Series Competition: April 22-May 4, 2019 (Week 43-44)

Current FHSAA Format: teams advance into a district-based tournament to qualify for the State Tournament and advance through a bracket with four to five games spaced out through the post-season window

– or –

Team Championship Tournament: the Friday & Saturday of Week 43, two-day format with all teams that have competed in a certain number of matches throughout the season being allowed to enter

Individual Pairs Championship Tournament: the Friday & Saturday of Week 44, two-day format with an individual pair allowed to enter from a school that has competed in a certain number of matches throughout the season

CURRENT HIGH SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

- There are over 56 high schools already competing in beach volleyball across the state.
- As a breakdown, in each FHSAA Section, there are currently –
 - **Section 1:** 8 schools
 - **Section 2:** 27 schools
 - **Section 3:** 13 schools
 - **Section 4:** 8 schools

HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPATION ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

- The Arizona Interscholastic Association is the only state association linked with the NFHS that currently offers beach volleyball.
- In 2012, the AIA had five teams participate and were considered an emerging sport. They quickly grew to 31 teams and in 2018, they had 65 teams participating.
- Their regular season allows 12 Varsity matches assigned by their association within their section along with 3 additional games that they are allowed to schedule on their own.
- 16 teams qualify for their Team State Championship & Pairs State Championship
 - Every team that wins their section automatically qualifies & the other teams are selected based on MaxPreps Power Rankings.
 - In 2018, they had over 1500 spectators attend their State Championship.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES AT THE NEXT LEVEL

“one of the fastest growing sports in the NCAA providing more opportunities for female student-athletes each year”

- currently offered by 79 NCAA schools including 22 in the Southeast and 15 in the state of Florida
 - Florida State University, Stetson University, Jacksonville University, University of North Florida, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida International University, Eckerd College, University of Tampa, Florida Southern University, St. Leo University, Webber University, Warner University, Southeastern University, St. Thomas University
- Division I schools have 6 scholarships available and Division II schools have 5 scholarships available per program