

2018 Minnesota Youth Volleyball State Tournament

Frequently Asked Questions • Notes by Jeff McCarron, Director

What is Pacesetter Sports?

Pacesetter Sports was created in 1980 to provide high-level coaching through low-cost basketball camps for players of all ages. In 1985, volleyball camps were added. Pacesetter grew from offering 8 camps in 1980 to over 100 camps annually throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Since 1993 Pacesetter Sports has conducted a youth basketball state tournament system for Minnesota teams with over 700 teams playing annually. In 2010 Pacesetter added state tournaments in Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota, Wisconsin was added in 2018, with the top teams from each state advancing to the Pacesetter Great State Championship at the Target Center in Minneapolis. With the hope of providing similar opportunities for volleyball players, Pacesetter is launching the Minnesota Youth Volleyball State Tournament playoff system in 2018.

What is the background and mission of Pacesetter?

Message from Jeff McCarron, Pacesetter Director:

Our mission at Pacesetter is to provide high-quality, low-cost camps and tournaments for players, coaches, and parents. I am from a small town, Sherburn, MN (pop. approx. 1,100), just 10 miles from the Iowa border north of Estherville - corn and bean country. Our high school team had a "Hoosiers" experience by winning the last single-class state basketball championship in Minnesota in 1970. I also had a chance to be on MN Gopher football and basketball teams 1970-72, but when playing both sports was no longer allowed, I decided to play both sports in the North Central conference at Augustana 1973-75, playing against USD, SDSU, NDSU, UND, UNI, Mankato State and Morningside, which helped connect me to the area. Some of us players from wanted to spread what we had learned to as many young players as possible so we started camps in 1976 and Pacesetter Sports in 1980. This background is the reason we focus on helping "Hometown Teams" in the Upper Midwest. We love volleyball, basketball, small towns, teaching kids and providing high-quality experiences at an affordable cost. I thank our staff and all who have participated in making Pacesetter possible for 39 successful years!

7th & 8th Grade

What are the Pacesetter Region Playoffs?

The 7th & 8th grade Pacesetter Minnesota Youth Volleyball State Tournament for 2018 will involve an 8-region playoff system leading to the over-all Minnesota state championship. Each age division in each region will be limited to 16 teams. All teams that enter the region playoffs will play 3-4 matches in one day. The region champion will be invited to advance to the Minnesota Youth Volleyball State Tournament in Monticello on Sunday, November 4.

7th & 8th Grade

Who advances to Pacesetter "Post-season" tournaments?

The region champion for grades 7 & 8 from each of the eight regions advances to play in the 8-team Minnesota State Tournament in Monticello on November 4. Teams with only one loss in the region qualify to play in the MIT, or Minnesota Invitational Tournament, also in Monticello on November 4.

7th & 8th Grade

What is the Pacesetter Minnesota Youth Volleyball State Tournament?

The state tournament will be at Monticello field house, Sunday, November 4, featuring eight teams in each age group. All teams will play three matches with single elimination from the championship. Teams that lose in the first round will play in the consolation bracket.

9th Grade

What is the Pacesetter Minnesota Youth Volleyball State Tournament?

The 9th grade state tournament will be at Monticello field house, Sunday, November 4, featuring a championship bracket with up to 16 teams. Teams may register directly into the state tournament on a first-come, first-served basis. All teams will play at least three matches with single elimination from the championship. Teams that lose in the first round will play in the consolation bracket.

Are teams separated by class?

Teams are not separated by class. Teams will be seeded roughly based on their team rating in an attempt to balance the bracket and divide the strongest teams. A WEAK team, however, will not be matched against a STRONG team. As the tournament progresses, all teams will be playing teams that have fared the same, whether winning or losing, so the competition becomes more balanced as the day progresses, making it a competitive day for all teams.

How are the brackets created? How long will the tournament be?

The format is set for all teams to play 3-4 matches. All tournaments with 4-6 teams may involve some shorter pool play matches for seeding into the main tournament. All tournaments with 7-16 teams will play only full matches with single elimination from the championship. Teams that lose in the first round will play in the consolation bracket.

Scheduling without long breaks between matches will be a priority. Games will also be played as efficiently as possible and played up to 20 minutes earlier than scheduled when possible. Coaches and players should be aware of the progress of the match preceding their own. Always be certain you have completed your last possible match before leaving the tournament permanently. Coaches and parents need to be aware that larger tournaments with over 8 teams will require more time to complete. Managing “down time” well can help build team chemistry and mold great teamwork.

Do all players have to be from the same school?

All youth teams in grades 7-9 from Minnesota are eligible to enter the state tournament playoffs. All players on a team must attend the same school. Two smaller schools, however, may combine to form one team if the combined enrollment of their high schools grades 9-12 is 400 or fewer. Schools that combine must be from neighboring schools.

May players play at an older or younger grade level?

Players may play at an older grade level, but older players may not play at a younger level.

May players play on more than one team?

Players may play at more than one grade level and may even play at two grade levels on the same day. That decision is the responsibility of coaches and parents.

Can teams play in more than one region?

7th & 8th grade teams are welcome to play in more than one region. There are several reasons for this provision: 1) The first goal is to provide teams with opportunities to play and to improve through competition. If teams are motivated to play in more than one region, this system provides them with up to four opportunities. 2) Teams may have conflicts for the tournament closer to their geographical area, so they are able to travel farther and still enter the play-off system. 3) Some tournaments may not have enough teams (min. of 4) from the local region to conduct a full tournament, so the tournament could depend on teams from another region to make the bracket. 4) Teams enjoy playing opponents they have not faced during the season, so allowing teams to travel to another region provides the local area teams with competitive variety. 5) Allowing teams to play in another region also strengthens the field for the state championship, providing the strongest teams with more opportunities to join the state championship field.

Why not keep it simple and allow teams to play in only one region?

If regions provided enough teams (4-16) well in advance to conduct a full tournament for every age/gender group, it would be feasible to adopt this policy, but any advantages may still not outweigh the elimination of the opportunities and benefits outlined above. Even if all regions fielded enough teams, would the benefits of simpler advancement truer to geographical region outweigh the benefits of greater opportunities for teams? If that circumstance arises in the future, this policy could be re-evaluated at that time.

What happens if a team wins more than one region?

If a team wins a championship in a region other than their home region, they may still play in their home region, but if they then win in their home region also, the runner-up team from the first region would be invited to the state championship. If a team wins first in their home region and is registered for another region on a later weekend, that team should inform the Pacesetter office immediately that they are not eligible to play in any further regions, so they can be dropped from the list and refunded. However, if the next region is the next day (as in the Sunday of a Sat-Sun weekend) the team must stay in that tournament and the guideline above would apply if they would also win that region – the runner-up would be declared champion.

Which region is designated as our Home Region?

The home region for Minnesota teams will be determined by the MSHSL regions provided in the MSHSL handbook.

Who should I contact with a question?

Please feel free to email either Tracey Haines, office manager, at tracey@pacesetternet.com or Jeff McCarron at jeff@pacesetternet.com or call 320-243-7460 with any thoughts or questions.

Thank you for your cooperation and your efforts to make this tournament system a success.

Jeff McCarron, Director

Tracey Haines, Office Manager