



What are Pools? **ELIGIBILITY RULES?** *Tournament Format?*

## HOW ARE BRACKETS FORMED?

**ASK "TOURNAMENT BRAIN"**

[www.ecbuzz.net](http://www.ecbuzz.net)

### ELIGIBILITY RULES

1. A volleyball team that is directed by homeschool parents and/or homeschool organization with the intent of serving **only** homeschool students,
2. A volleyball TEAM roster that was put together in August through September 5<sup>th</sup> and will be confirmed by the posting of an online roster completely by Sept 5<sup>th</sup> and can be supported by an official game in your scorebook for this current season,
3. Student-athletes have not achieved high school graduation.
4. Student-athletes meet these age requirements:

East Coast Nationals **AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART (effective July 13, 2023)**.  
*East Coast Nationals events have streamlined and re-structured their Age Eligibility Rule going forward to come in alignment with the national tournament scene and State Conference rules. With this broad approach, there will no longer be exemptions.*

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Age eligibility</b>
<b>14-U "MS"</b>	<b>14 or younger as of 3/8/2024 *</b>
<b>17-U "JV"</b>	<b>17 or younger as of 3/8/2024 *</b> <i>(a player cannot possess a diploma or GED before Sept 1, 2023)</i>
<b>19-U "Varsity"</b>	<b>19 or younger as of 3/8/2024 *</b> <i>(a player cannot possess a diploma or GED before Sept 1, 2023)</i>

**\* The 3/8/2024 date is in alignment with the East Coast Basketball Nationals Final day of competition. This will change from year to year.**

## **These limited exemptions may be requested:**

**If this is you, YOU MUST CONTACT HSPN WITH COMPLETE ROSTER by September 1st.**

1. With a small 18-U roster, you might be able to add 1 student from another Christian school (not Public) providing that the school did not offer a volleyball program and that student must be on your roster by Sept 1<sup>st</sup> as reflected in your scorebook and approved by HSPN.
  - a. **You will have to defend the need for this player.**

**2. If you are more “hybrid” than this, then send e-mail to [coach4life@yahoo.com](mailto:coach4life@yahoo.com)**

**YOUR ONLINE TEAM ROSTER** will be your official tournament roster and must be fully completed online by Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be LOCKED on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and no more players can be added to your roster. In this way, each coach is accountable for his/her roster and can be questioned at the tournament. Your official roster will be published as a PDF and available online for all to see. There ARE exceptions for adding players to a roster, please read below.

**WHEN IS IT OK TO ADD PLAYERS TO MY ROSTER?** If you are ONLY registering a 18-U team or 16-U team but are leaving the younger teams at home, you may add those younger players to your 18-U team for Nationals. The coach must be able to present the appropriate scorebook as a means of accountability showing those younger player(s) on that active roster from a game in this current season - should anyone ask.

**IS MY PLAYER ALLOWED TO PLAY ON MULTIPLE TEAMS?** Only **ONE** player per gender from your ENTIRE organization may play up on one other team, provided he/she is not a MAJOR contributor on both.

Example: 14-U player (starter) is minimally used for 17-U - ALLOWED

Example: 17-U player (starter) is minimally used for 19-U - ALLOWED

17-U player (starter) is also a starter for 19-U - NO!

17-U player (starter or heavy contributor) plays significant minutes for 19-U - NO

14-U player (starter) is a starter for 17-U - NO!

14-U player (starter or heavy contributor) plays significant minutes for 17U - NO

***(This rule will sunset after the 2023 Nationals, and players will have to pick one team to play on during the future volleyball Nationals)***

**AS ALWAYS THERE ARE EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND EXCEPTIONS, so please contact Chris at [coach4life@yahoo.com](mailto:coach4life@yahoo.com). = BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1st =**

## Team Pools and Pool Play

Each age division is subdivided into 4-team pools using geography and balanced team strength for each pool. Pool numbers are arbitrary and mean nothing as to best pool / worst pool. The goal is to have teams in a pool that hopefully had not played each other during the season.

### Pool play is “round robin” best of 3 matches!

All teams in their respective pool will play each other in a **BEST out of THREE** sets. You will either WIN or LOSE a match and **earn 3 points for a win**, 0 points for a loss

#### “HOME” TEAM:

- a) Listed first on the schedule or higher seed in brackets.
- b) Supplies game ball.
- c) Supplies a scorer, libero tracker etc. to the scorers’ table and **is the official book.**
- d) Supply a line judge.
- e) Use your own volleyballs for warmups, etc

#### “AWAY” TEAM:

- a) Provides a scorer to use as a flip chart.
- b) Supply a line judge.
- c) Use your own volleyballs for warmups, etc

At the end of the round robin pool play, your team’s overall record will come into play with the tie-breaker systems mentioned next.

### Pool Play Matches: BEST OUT OF 3

**1st set to 25 win by 2, capped at 28.**

**2nd set to 25 win by 2, capped at 28.**

**3rd set to 15 win by 2, capped at 18.**

### Tie Breaker Rules for determining brackets.

- 1) Won-Loss record after 3 pool play matches (see above)
- 2) Head-to Head
- 3) Least Points allowed during pool play
- 4) Point differential (set points you scored minus points you allowed)
- 5) Avg Pts Scored per set during pool play
- 6) If still tied, coin toss.

## HOW BRACKETS ARE

After pool play has completed for ALL teams in their division and the tie-breaker system is applied, the teams are seeded #1 through #nn (based on number of teams in each division : 19-U, 17-U, 14-U)

### 19-U Girls: (based on 36 teams)

- Seeds #1-#8 go into the TOP BRACKET **Elite Eight** and will compete for the Grand Championship banner, trophy, and medals!; losers compete for 8A Championship banner.
- Seeds #9-12 go into Division 7A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 6A Championship banner.
- Seeds #13-16 go into Division 6A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 5A Championship banner.

- Seeds #17-20 go into Division 5A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 5A Championship banner.
- Seeds #21-24 go into Division 4A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 4A Championship banner.
- Seeds #25-28 go into Division 3A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 3A Championship banner.
- Seeds #29-32 go into Division 2A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 2 Championship banner.
- Seeds #33-36 go into Division A as seeds #1 - #4 for the A Championship banner.

#### **19-U Boys** (based on 16 teams)

**Elite Eight** and will compete for the Grand Championship banner, trophy, and medals!- losers compete for 3A Championship banner.

- Seeds #9-12 go into Division A as seeds #1 - #4 for the A Championship banner.

**17-U Girls:** (based on 32 teams)Seeds #1-#8 go into the TOP BRACKET **Elite Eight** and will compete for the Grand Championship banner, trophy, and medals!; losers compete for 7A Championship banner.

- Seeds #9-12 go into Division 6A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 6A Championship banner.
- Seeds #13-16 go into Division 5A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 5A Championship banner.
- Seeds #17-20 go into Division 4A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 4A Championship banner.
- Seeds #21-24 go into Division 3A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 3A Championship banner.
- Seeds #25-28 go into Division 2A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 2A Championship banner.
- Seeds #29-32 go into Division A as seeds #1 - #4 for the A Championship banner.

#### **14-U Girls:** (based on 16 teams)

- Seeds #1-#8 go into the TOP BRACKET **Elite Eight** and will compete for the Grand Championship banner, trophy, and medals!; losers compete for 3A Championship banner.
- Seeds #9-12 go into Division 6A as seeds #1 - #4 for the 2A Championship banner.
- Seeds #13-16 go into Division 5A as seeds #1 - #4 for the A Championship banner.

## **BRACKET PLAY:**

**Semi Finals | Championship | 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Matches**

### **BEST OUT OF 3**

**1st set to 25 win by 2, capped at 28.**

**2nd set to 25 win by 2, capped at 28.**

**3rd set to 15 win by 2, capped at 18.**

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## **AWARDS and TROPHIES**

Immediately at the conclusion of Championship matches, **NO CLOSING CEREMONY:**

Each Division Champion will receive:

- a) Championship banner
- b) Trophy/Award

Each Division 2<sup>nd</sup> place team will receive:

- a) Runner-up Trophy

**3<sup>rd</sup> place trophy only for Top Bracket.**

### **MVP Awards**

- An MVP is awarded to a member of the **19-U Girls “TOP BRACKET” Championship team.**  
(Coach to decide)
- An MVP is awarded to a member of the **19-U Boys highest bracket Championship team.**  
(Coach to decide)
- An MVP is awarded to a member of the **17-U Girls highest bracket Championship team.**  
(Coach to decide)
- An MVP is awarded to a member of the **14-U Girls highest bracket Championship team.**  
(Coach to decide)