

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Name(s): Deran Coe on behalf of the NCHSAA Flag Football Committee.

School/LEA/Conference/Group: NCHSAA Flag Football Committee

We/I request that the following item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the NCHSAA Board of Directors:

Recommendation/Proposal: (State in detail the recommendation/proposal)

It is the recommendation of the NCHSAA Flag Football Committee that the NCHSAA officially sanctions the sport of women's flag football. Furthermore the committee recommends that the season begin with a first date of practice of July 29th to coincide with fall sports season and a first official game date of August 17. The committee requests a maximum number of regular season games to be between 18-24 understanding that the limit for comparable sports is 24. The committee recommends a reporting deadline of midnight on Saturday, October 24 with playoff dates being set for October 28, October 31, November 4, and a final four and championship on November 7.

- Rationale: (Why should the board consider and possibly pass this recommendation?)
Women's flag football is the fastest growing sport in the state and according to variable data from the Carolina Panthers, more than 25% of the member schools have been competing in the sport for the past two school years.
- Budget Impact: (What does this mean to a school's/athletic department's finances?)
There could be an impact on coaching salary, transportation costs, and costs for officials for schools. However equipment and uniform costs are minimal and the Carolina Panthers will provide grant funds for first time participants this fall. Many schools report having ticket revenue to exceed the cost of the sport.
- Educational Impact: (Does this mean loss of school time? Does it interfere with study time?)
This would not impact school time.
- Gender Impact: (Is this proposal fair to males and females?)
This creates additional opportunities for championship participation for female student athletes, the underserved portion of our population.
- Effective Date: (When would this go into effect?)
Fall season of the 2026-2027 academic year.

Flag Football FAQ Questions

Q. What equipment is needed to play?

A. NFHS approved youth football, uniforms, triple threat belt, mouthpiece, down markers, clock, and scoreboard.

Q. Is there any required equipment?

A. Yes. A mouthpiece

Q. What playing rules will be followed?

A. NFHS playing rules will be followed.

Q. What are the coaching qualifications?

A. Coaches must maintain current certifications as established by SBOE, NCHSAA, and local policy.

Q. What will the bracket size be for an invitational or state championship?

A. Flag football would follow current NCHSAA bracketing guidelines.

Q. Are state associations allowed to adopt their own rules?

A. Yes. Per NFHS rules, there are some allowances for state associations to adopt their own rules such as, but not limited to: punting, point differential, number of game officials, kicking tee, wearing of a commemorative patch, style of flags, use of hash marks, procedure to resolve ties following the 4th quarter, and length of halftime.

Q. Where will game results be entered?

A. MaxPreps

Q. How will teams qualify for the playoffs or state championships?

A. Teams will qualify for the playoffs using the current NCHSAA playoff model.

Q. Who will place teams on the playoff bracket?

A. If sanctioned, NCHSAA staff will place teams on playoff bracket.

Q. Who will assign officials for the contest?

A. Assignments for contests will be conducted by the current football regional supervisors.

Q. What is the limitation of games (daily, weekly, season)?

A. *The SMAC committee has recommended 18 games per season. However, agenda item will state 18 – 24 games per season.*

Daily limitations: No more than 2 contests on a school day and no more than 3 contests on non-school day. A school can play no more than 4 contests Monday- Friday. A team can participate in no more than 6 contests per week provided at least 2 are on a Saturday or non-school day.

Q. How will teams be placed in conferences?

A. *Teams will compete within their assigned conferences according to their current placement. Adjustments to conference assignments may be made if a school must be relocated due to the absence of participating teams from other schools within their current conference.*

Q. How long will the season last?

A. *From first practice beginning on July 29 and concluding with state championships on November 7.*

Q. If flag football is sanctioned, what role will the Carolina Panthers play financially?

A. *Upon the sanctioning of flag football, the financial responsibility for funding the program will rest with the member schools. If sanctioned, funding may only be available to new schools, with the amount to be determined.*

Submitted NCHSAA Data via DragonFly for Women’s Flag Football School and Men’s Volleyball Participation Report

Data Verification Methodology

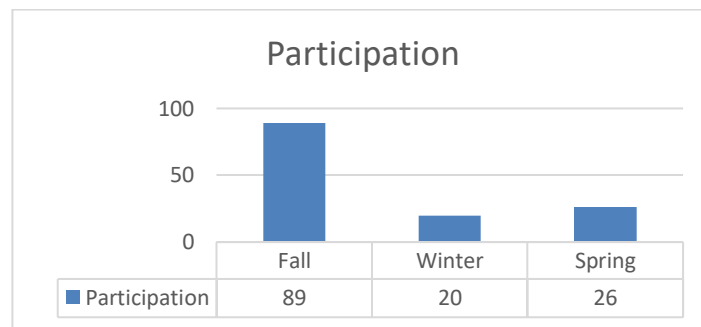
For both flag football and volleyball, participation data were verified, reconciled, and cross-checked across multiple reports to ensure accurate counts. DragonFly eligibility summary data was reviewed and validated against Carolina Panthers records, MaxPreps reports, and school-submitted surveys. This multi-source verification process helped confirm consistency and reliability across all reported figures.

Seasonal participation breakdowns for the 2024–2025 season contained inconsistencies and were excluded from seasonal analysis; however, total team counts for that year are included. Percentage calculations are based on the total number of NCHSAA member schools (442 in 2024–2025; 446 in 2025–2026).

Women’s Flag Football

2024-2025: 117 Teams (26% of 442)

2025-2026: 135 Teams (30% of 446)



The Carolina Panthers’ report included **138** teams.

After reconciliation attempts with the Carolina Panthers data, two schools reported not fielding a team, and one did not respond to repeated requests for information.

Men’s Volleyball

2024-2025: 109 Teams (24% of 442)

2025-2026: 120 Teams (26% of 446)

All teams played in the spring.

Subject: Proposal for NCHSAA Sanctioning of Boys Volleyball – Spring 2027

NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Meeting of the Board of Directors – Agenda Item Submission

Name(s): Bryan Tyson, Cabarrus County AD/ John Sullivan , UnionCounty AD/ Alexis McCoy
ForsythCounty AD/ Lewis Newman, Orange County AD

School/LEA/Conference/Group: Cabarrus County, Union County, Forsyth County, and Orange
County Schools Athletic Departments

Proposal Sponsored by: Cabarrus/Union/Forsyth/Orange County Athletic Directors

Recommendation/Proposal

We respectfully request that the NCHSAA Board of Directors approve the sanctioning of Boys Volleyball as an official high school sport in North Carolina, with the first sanctioned season beginning Spring 2027.

This proposal meets NCHSAA sanctioning guidelines, which require participation from at least 25% of total member schools or 50% of a single classification for two consecutive seasons. Boys Volleyball has met those thresholds through 50% participation in 4A during the 2025 season and over 25% of total member schools in the 2026 season.

Rationale

Boys Volleyball in North Carolina has grown rapidly and consistently over the past nine seasons. Increasing 1600% in participation since 2022.

- **2022:** 7 member schools
- **2025:** 105 schools, including 50% of all 4A schools
- **2026:** 119 schools statewide (over 25% of membership)

This growth reflects national trends, with NFHS reporting boys volleyball now the fastest-growing high school boys sport in the country for 10 years in a row.

North Carolina also has multiple colleges offering men's volleyball programs with scholarship opportunities, creating a clear pathway for student-athletes to continue playing at the next level.

This initiative has strong support from administrators, athletic directors, coaches, officials, and families across the state. (Sample of testimonials included)

Over the past 10 seasons, Boys Volleyball has been intentionally developed in alignment with NCHSAA standards, mirroring girls volleyball in season timing, rules, and overall structure. The sport is already operating within the framework of sanctioned athletics.

While participation levels currently require some flexibility in conference alignment, the sport mirrors girls volleyball wherever possible, including NFHS rules, statewide scheduling, and RPI-based playoff seeding. As participation continues to grow, conference structures will naturally align with existing NCHSAA models.

The 2027 State Championship site has already been secured. Championship structures have scaled from 1–3A and 4A in 2025 to 1–4A, 5–6A, 7A, and 8A in 2026.

Additional operational details, support and structure are included in the supporting evidence. We have also established All-State team selections and held an annual All-Star Game over the past two seasons, further demonstrating the sport’s structure and sustainability.

Budget Impact

The cost of implementing Boys Volleyball is lower than most new sports because schools already have the core infrastructure in place. Existing gym space, nets, standards, volleyballs, and scoreboards are shared with Girls Volleyball, making this a “sunk cost” sport rather than a new investment.

Typical Costs (per school):

Coach Stipends: Head Coach ~ \$3,000; Assistant Coach ~ \$2,000
Uniforms: ~\$0–\$3,000; many programs repurpose existing uniforms
Transportation: Estimated \$0–\$5,000 per season
Miscellaneous/Officials: Approximately \$3,000

Estimated Total (per school): \$6,000–\$14,000 in the first year, with ongoing annual costs of \$6,000–\$11,000.

We recognize that budget constraints vary across counties, and for some schools, adding any sport requires careful planning. Transportation, in particular, can be a meaningful consideration depending on geography and available resources.

However, Boys Volleyball stands apart from most new sport additions. Because the primary infrastructure already exists, startup costs are significantly reduced, and many schools have demonstrated that programs can be launched by leveraging existing equipment, facilities, and personnel.

Schools also have flexibility in implementation, including starting at the Varsity level based on available resources. As participation continues to grow, increased geographic density will allow for more localized scheduling, helping to reduce travel-related expenses.

These factors make Boys Volleyball one of the most practical and cost-efficient opportunities to expand athletic offerings. The benefits - increased participation, expanded opportunities, stronger school engagement and sense of belonging - outweigh the financial considerations.

Additionally, Boys Volleyball directly supports and enhances existing Girls Volleyball programs. The two teams share facilities, equipment, and often fundraising efforts, creating efficiencies and improvements that benefit both programs.

Educational Impact

Boys Volleyball offers an inclusive, structured, and positive athletic environment that promotes leadership, teamwork, and engagement. More than 80% of athletes do not play another spring sport, meaning volleyball provides additional participation opportunities rather than competing with existing programs.

Coaches report improved academic performance, attendance, and overall school connectedness among participating athletes. For many, volleyball has provided a much-needed sense of belonging, confidence, and community. (see testimonials) Several athletes from NC have gone onto play at the collegiate level, changing the trajectory of their future. Boys Volleyball has the full support of the NCVBCA.

Equity (Title IX) Impact

Sanctioning Boys Volleyball supports **Title IX compliance** by expanding opportunities based on *interest and ability*, not strict numerical equivalence, in accordance with **§106.41(c)**.

Also, many girls' volleyball players assist with boys' programs as student leaders, team managers, and coaches-in-training—strengthening equity and leadership opportunities for both genders. This proposal aligns with the NCHSAA's demonstrated commitment to equitable athletic expansion, as seen in the sanctioning of Girls Wrestling.

Officials and Infrastructure

North Carolina currently has a sufficient pool of certified volleyball officials to support expansion in the spring season. A large majority of the Regional Supervisors support sanctioning boys volleyball (see supporting evidence) The same NFHS rules apply as in the girls' game, so no retraining is required.

If needed, the North Carolina Boys Volleyball Association (NCBVA) will assist the NCHSAA to help coordinate the 2027 Conferences and the 2027 State Championship has already been secured and paid for at Queens University on May 21st, 2027. We have included projection for 2027 and conference structure. If deemed beneficial by the NCHSAA, the start date of the Spring season is flexible and could shift later to limit overlap with basketball.

Effective Date

First sanctioned NCHSAA Boys Volleyball season: Spring 2027.

Participation data from the 2025 and 2026 seasons satisfies the two-year threshold requirement. (Data in supporting evidence)

After 10 years of grassroots efforts, boys Volleyball is established and operating statewide. Sanctioning formalizes an existing sport, providing structure, consistency, and access for student-athletes whose schools are just waiting for it to be sanctioned.

This agenda item is presented by:

Bryan Tyson

Cabarrus County Athletic Director

Bryan Tyson

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John Sullivan

Union County Athletic Director

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Alexis McCoy

FWS/FCS District Athletic Director

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Lewis Newman

Orange County Athletic Director

Lewis Newman

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To the NCHSAA Board of Directors,

As regional supervisors responsible for officiating and match assignments across North Carolina, we support the sanctioning of boys volleyball as an official high school sport beginning in the 2026–27 school year.

From an officiating standpoint, the game is already being supported across the state. Officials are actively working matches, gaining experience, and engaging with the continued growth of boys volleyball at both the high school and club levels.

Based on what we are currently seeing, we are confident in the ability to staff and support boys volleyball as a sanctioned sport.

Key considerations from an officiating perspective:

- Existing volleyball officials are already engaged and prepared to support boys high school competition
- New officials continue to enter the pipeline through both club and school-based opportunities
- Regional assignment structures are in place to support scheduling and coverage
- Sanctioning will provide greater consistency, organization, and long-term stability for officiating

Sanctioning boys volleyball allows the officiating community to continue building within a more structured and consistent framework, benefiting both officials and student-athletes.

We appreciate the opportunity to share perspective from those directly involved in officiating and supporting competition across the state.

Sincerely,

Your NCHSAA Regional Supervisors

- Johnny Guterwill | WNCOA | jmackref@gmail.com
- Scott Wahlers | Metrolina Association | scott.wahlers@gmail.com
- Cindy Harrell | Mountain West Association | cc3444@hotmail.com
- Brenda Halford | Western Piedmont Association | bhwestvb@gmail.com
- Jerry Talley | Central Carolina Association | jerrystalley@aol.com
- Brian Jones | Western Triangle Association | jones.brian70@gmail.com
- Bill Henderson | Southeastern National Officials Corp, Inc. | boatq@aol.com
- Scott Faglier | Mid-State Association | midstateofficials@triad.rr.com
- Robin Forehand | Northeastern Officials Assoc. | wayneforehand@gmail.com

NCVBCA Letter of Support

Dear Members of the NCHSAA Board of Directors,

On behalf of the North Carolina Volleyball Coaches Association and the broader coaching community across our state, we are writing to express our strong support for the sanctioning of boys volleyball as an official high school sport beginning in the 2026–27 school year.

Over the past several years, boys volleyball in North Carolina has experienced significant and sustained growth. What began with only a handful of programs has expanded into a growing presence across the state, with increasing participation, rising interest from student-athletes, and more coaches stepping forward to support and lead programs.

From a coaching perspective, the momentum is clear.

Sanctioning boys volleyball will:

- Expand meaningful opportunities for student-athletes across North Carolina
- Provide structure and consistency for developing high school programs
- Support coaches in building sustainable, school-based teams
- Strengthen the overall landscape of high school athletics in our state

Based on what we are seeing and hearing from coaches across North Carolina, there is strong alignment and readiness to support and sustain boys volleyball at the high school level. In addition, we have received direct expressions of support from volleyball coaches representing programs across multiple regions of the state.

We appreciate the thoughtful consideration given to emerging sports and the impact these decisions have on students and school communities. We are confident that boys volleyball is prepared for this next step.

Thank you for your time and your continued commitment to providing opportunities for student-athletes across North Carolina.

Sincerely,

Zoe Bell
Co-President, NCVBCA

Sue Moon
Co-President, NCVBCA

To the NCHSAA,

For the past decade, I have had the privilege of coaching boys volleyball, raising three sons who play, and leading the statewide volunteer effort to build sustainable high school programs across North Carolina.

What began as a grassroots effort at 4 schools has become a fully organized state-wide movement. Today, 119 NCHSAA schools are fielding boys volleyball teams and we will crown 4 state champs this season. We have intentionally modeled the boys game after the girls game in every operational way possible: rules, procedures, scheduling standards, RPI calculations, playoff structure, and team expectations. This has been deliberate and we align with existing NCHSAA standards wherever possible.

From an operational standpoint, boys volleyball is a low-barrier, sunk-cost sport. The equipment already exists in nearly every gym. The facilities are open in the spring. Officials are trained on the same rules, the only difference being the height of the net. Nearly all schools already have girls volleyball in the fall, and adding a boys program allows two teams to utilize the same infrastructure and investment, strengthening the overall volleyball community within the school.

From a student standpoint, the impact is far greater than logistics.

I have watched boys walk into a gym unsure, often learning the sport later in their high school careers, and grow into confident leaders. Volleyball demands communication, accountability, and resilience. After every point, teammates come together. They regroup. They reset. That consistent connection builds belonging and combats the isolation many teenage boys experience. I have seen shy freshmen become leaders. I have seen students who felt disconnected find purpose and community.

As you determine when sanctioning of boys volleyball will take effect, I respectfully ask that you consider the students in schools where athletic directors have said that boys volleyball will be added once it is officially sanctioned, but won't allow students to participate at the club sport level. Hundreds, if not more than a thousand, young men across our state fall into this category.

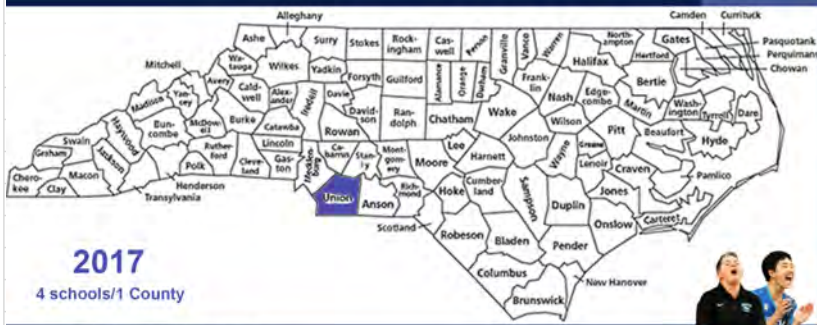
For the students in those schools, this decision is not theoretical. It is time-sensitive. A one-year delay represents 25% of their high school career, for some, may alter exposure opportunities that influence their path beyond high school. Seniors and juniors do not have the flexibility to wait. While adults can adjust timelines and planning cycles, student-athletes move through high school quickly. For some, the 2026–2027 season may be their only opportunity to represent their school in a sport they care deeply about.

The infrastructure is established. Participation thresholds have been met and sustained. The administrative model mirrors an existing, successful sport. The interest is real. This is not a request for something untested. It is recognition of something already built and ready to grow even further.

Sanctioning boys volleyball honors the players who helped grow it, supports the athletes currently competing, and ensures that future students have equitable access to a sport that is here to stay.

With Gratitude, Coach Sarah Conklin

HOW IT STARTED



2017

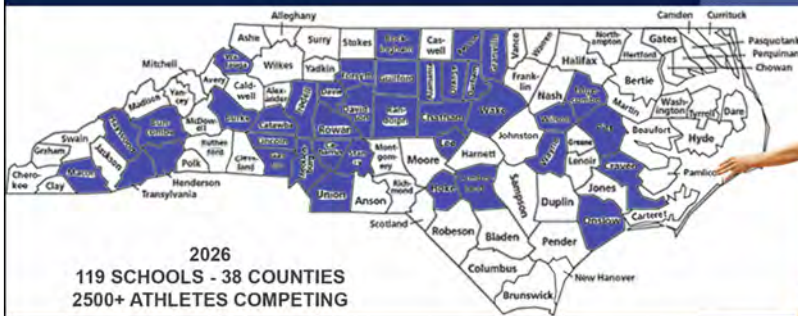
4 schools/1 County

50 Athletes Participating

NCBOYSHIGHSCHOOLVOLLEYBALL.COM



HOW IT'S GOING



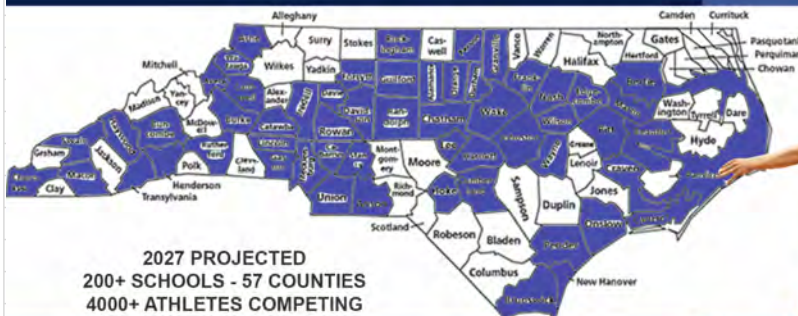
2026

119 SCHOOLS - 38 COUNTIES
2500+ ATHLETES COMPETING

NCBOYSHIGHSCHOOLVOLLEYBALL.COM



WHERE IT'S GOING



2027 PROJECTED
200+ SCHOOLS - 57 COUNTIES
4000+ ATHLETES COMPETING

NCBOYSHIGHSCHOOLVOLLEYBALL.COM



TEAMS PARTICIPATING IN 2025 SEASON

1A

14 schools

Bradford Prep
 Christ the King
 Gray Stone Day
 Mountain Island Charter
 Union Academy
 Eno River Academy
 Falls Lake
 TMSA
 Langtree Charter
 Phoenix Academy
 North Rowan
 TMSA - Guilford
 NCSSM-Morganton
 ALA - Lee County

2A

12 schools

Lincoln Charter
 Lexington Senior
 Jordan Matthews
 NCSSM-Durham
 Hendersonville
 Wayne School of Engineering
 Mount Pleasant
 Community School of Davidson
 Salisbury
 Seaforth
 East Burke
 West Craven

3A

26 schools

Carrboro
 Central Academy
 Central Cabarrus
 Central Davidson
 Concord
 DSA
 East Henderson
 East Lincoln
 East Rowan
 Enka
 Franklin
 Hickory
 Jay M. Robinson
 Jesse Carson
 N Henderson
 NW Cabarrus
 Orange
 Parkwood
 Piedmont
 Pisgah
 South Rowan
 Southern Durham
 Swansboro
 West Henderson
 West Meck
 West Rowan

4A

53 schools

A L Brown
 Ardrey Kell
 Butler
 Charlotte Catholic
 Cuthbertson
 Hopewell
 Marvin Ridge
 North Mecklenburg
 Olympic
 Palisades
 Berry
 Porter Ridge
 Providence
 South Iredell
 West Cabarrus
 Robert B Glenn
 Mooresville
 Hoke County
 South Mecklenburg
 Sun Valley
 Weddington
 Hough
 Millbrook
 Riverside-Durham
 Roberson
 Ballantyne Ridge
 New Bern
 Mount Tabor
 East Meck
 Garinger
 Apex Friendship
 Myers Park
 Cox Mill
 Hickory Ridge
 Panther Creek
 Reynolds
 Watauga
 East Forsyth
 Northern Guilford
 Northwest Guilford
 Page
 Reagan
 West Forsyth
 C E Jordan
 Cardinal Gibbons
 Chapel Hill
 Enloe
 Hillside
 East Chapel Hill
 South Garner
 Southwest Guilford
 Lake Norman
 Wakefield

2025 NCHSAA Participation Data

Total Membership Participation - 105 - 24%

Total 4A Participation - 53 - 50%

School	County	2025 Class	2026 Class
Ascend Leadership Academy: Lee County	Lee	1A	1A
Bradford Prep	Mecklenburg	1A	2A
Christ the King	Mecklenburg	1A	2A
Eno River Academy	Orange	1A	2A
Falls Lake	Granville	1A	1A
Gray Stone Day	Stanly	1A	2A
Langtree Charter	Iredell	1A	2A
Mountain Island Charter	Mecklenburg	1A	2A
NCSSM-Morganton	Burke	1A	1A
North Rowan	Rowan	1A	2A
Phoenix Academy	Guilford	1A	1A
Triad Math and Science Academy	Guilford	1A	1A
Triangle Math and Science Academy	Wake	1A	2A
Union Academy	Union	1A	3A
Community School of Davidson	Mecklenburg	2A	2A
East Burke	Burke	2A	4A
Goldsboro	Wayne	2A	3A
Hendersonville	Henderson	2A	3A
Jordan Matthews	Chatham	2A	4A
Lexington Senior	Davidson	2A	4A
Lincoln Charter	Lincoln	2A	4A
Mount Pleasant	Cabarrus	2A	4A
N.C. School of Science & Math: Durham	Durham	2A	3A
Salisbury	Rowan	2A	4A
Seaforth	Chatham	2A	5A
West Craven	Craven	2A	4A
Carrboro	Orange	3A	4A
Central Academy	Union	3A	4A
Central Cabarrus	Cabarrus	3A	6A
Central Davidson	Davidson	3A	4A
Concord	Cabarrus	3A	5A
Durham School of the Arts	Durham	3A	5A
East Henderson	Henderson	3A	4A
East Lincoln	Lincoln	3A	5A
East Rowan	Rowan	3A	5A
Enka	Buncombe	3A	5A
Franklin	Macon	3A	5A
Hickory	Catawba	3A	5A
Jay M. Robinson	Cabarrus	3A	5A
Jesse Carson	Rowan	3A	5A

2025 NCHSAA Participation Data

Total Membership Participation - 105 - 24%
Total 4A Participation - 53 - 50%

School	County	2025 Class	2026 Class
North Henderson	Henderson	3A	5A
Northwest Cabarrus	Cabarrus	3A	5A
Orange	Orange	3A	5A
Parkwood	Union	3A	5A
Piedmont	Union	3A	6A
Pisgah	Haywood	3A	4A
South Rowan	Rowan	3A	4A
Southern School of Energy and Sustainability	Durham	3A	7A
Swansboro	Onslow	3A	6A
West Henderson	Henderson	3A	5A
West Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	3A	7A
West Rowan	Rowan	3A	5A
A L Brown	Cabarrus	4A	7A
Apex Friendship	Wake	4A	8A
Ardrey Kell	Mecklenburg	4A	8A
Ballantyne Ridge	Mecklenburg	4A	7A
Butler	Mecklenburg	4A	7A
C E Jordan	Durham	4A	8A
Cardinal Gibbons	Wake	4A	7A
Chapel Hill	Orange	4A	7A
Charlotte Catholic	Mecklenburg	4A	6A
Cox Mill	Cabarrus	4A	7A
Cuthbertson	Union	4A	7A
East Chapel Hill	Orange	4A	6A
East Forsyth	Forsyth	4A	7A
East Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	4A	8A
Enloe	Wake	4A	8A
Garinger	Mecklenburg	4A	8A
Hickory Ridge	Cabarrus	4A	7A
Hillside	Durham	4A	7A
Hoke County	Hoke	4A	8A
Hopewell	Mecklenburg	4A	7A
Lake Norman	Iredell	4A	7A
Marvin Ridge	Union	4A	7A
Millbrook	Wake	4A	8A
Mooresville	Iredell	4A	7A
Mount Tabor	Forsyth	4A	6A
Myers Park	Mecklenburg	4A	8A
New Bern	Craven	4A	7A
North Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	4A	7A

2025 NCHSAA Participation Data

Total Membership Participation - 105 - 24%
Total 4A Participation - 53 - 50%

School	County	2025 Class	2026 Class
Northern Guilford	Guilford	4A	6A
Northwest Guilford	Guilford	4A	8A
Olympic	Mecklenburg	4A	6A
Page	Guilford	4A	7A
Palisades	Mecklenburg	4A	8A
Panther Creek	Wake	4A	8A
Phillip O Berry Academy of Technology	Mecklenburg	4A	6A
Porter Ridge	Union	4A	7A
Providence	Mecklenburg	4A	8A
Reynolds	Forsyth	4A	7A
Riverside-Durham	Durham	4A	7A
Roberson	Buncombe	4A	6A
Robert B Glenn	Forsyth	4A	6A
Ronald W Reagan	Forsyth	4A	7A
South Garner	Wake	4A	7A
South Iredell	Iredell	4A	7A
South Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	4A	8A
Southwest Guilford	Guilford	4A	7A
Sun Valley	Union	4A	6A
Wakefield	Wake	4A	8A
Watauga	Watauga	4A	6A
Weddington	Union	4A	7A
West Cabarrus	Cabarrus	4A	7A
West Forsyth	Forsyth	4A	8A
William Amos Hough	Mecklenburg	4A	8A

2026 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

1A - 10	2A - 8	3A - 4	4A - 14	5A - 17	6A - 16	7A - 31	8A - 19
<p>NCSSM-Morganton ALA: Lee County TMSA - Triad Phoenix Academy Falls Lake Central Carolina Academy Bethany Community School Chatham Charter North East Carolina Prep Sallie B Howard</p>	<p>Mountain Island Charter Christ the King Bradford Prep Comm. School of Davidson TMSA - Triangle Eno River Academy North Rowan Roxboro Community</p>	<p>NCSSM - Durham Goldsboro Union Academy Thomasville</p>	<p>Carrboro Lincoln Charter Jordan Matthews Pisgah Lexington Senior Mount Pleasant Central Academy Salisbury South Rowan West Craven East Burke North Pitt Brevard Maiden</p>	<p>Seaforth DSA Enka West Henderson North Henderson Franklin Northwest Cabarrus Jay M. Robinson Concord East Rowan Jesse Carson East Lincoln Southeast Alamance St. Pauls Eastern Alamance Douglas Byrd</p>	<p>Swansboro Central Cabarrus Berry Olympic Roberson Watauga Robert B Glenn Mount Tabor Charlotte Catholic Piedmont Sun Valley Northern Guilford Ben L. Smith St. Stephen's Asheboro A.C. Reynolds</p>	<p>Ronald W Reagan East Forsyth Reynolds West Mecklenburg Hopewell West Cabarrus Hickory Ridge Cox Mill A L Brown South Garner Butler North Mecklenburg Southwest Guilford Page South Iredell Mooresville Weddington Porter Ridge Marvin Ridge Cuthbertson Ballantyne Ridge Southern Durham Riverside-Durham Hillside Chapel Hill Cardinal Gibbons New Bern Davie County Purnell Swett Lumberton Lake Norman</p>	<p>Wakefield Millbrook Enloe West Forsyth Northwest Guilford Garinger Myers Park South Mecklenburg William Amos Hough West Charlotte Hoke County C E Jordan Apex Friendship Providence East Mecklenburg Palisades Ardrey Kell Mallard Creek Panther Creek</p>
119							

2026 NCHSAA Participation Data			Total 119	
School	County	2025 Class	2026 Class	2026 Participant
Ascend Leadership Academy: Lee County	Lee	1A	1A	YES
Falls Lake	Granville	1A	1A	YES
NCSSM-Morganton	Burke	1A	1A	YES
Phoenix Academy	Guilford	1A	1A	YES
Triad Math and Science Academy	Guilford	1A	1A	YES
Bethany Community	Rockingham	1A	1A	YES
Central Carolina Academy	Lee	1A	1A	YES
Chatham Charter	Chatham	1A	1A	YES
North East Carolina Prep	Edgecombe	1A	1A	YES
Sallie B Howard School	Wilson	1A	1A	YES
Bradford Prep	Mecklenburg	1A	2A	YES
Christ the King	Mecklenburg	1A	2A	YES
Eno River Academy	Orange	1A	2A	YES
Mountain Island Charter	Mecklenburg	1A	2A	YES
North Rowan	Rowan	1A	2A	YES
Triangle Math and Science Academy	Wake	1A	2A	YES
Community School of Davidson	Mecklenburg	2A	2A	YES
Roxboro Community	Person	1A	2A	YES
Union Academy	Union	1A	3A	YES
Goldsboro	Wayne	2A	3A	YES
N.C. School of Science & Math: Durham	Durham	2A	3A	YES
Thomasville	Davidson	1A	3A	YES
East Burke	Burke	2A	4A	YES
Jordan Matthews	Chatham	2A	4A	YES
Lexington Senior	Davidson	2A	4A	YES
Lincoln Charter	Lincoln	2A	4A	YES
Mount Pleasant	Cabarrus	2A	4A	YES
Salisbury	Rowan	2A	4A	YES
West Craven	Craven	2A	4A	YES
Carrboro	Orange	3A	4A	YES
Central Academy	Union	3A	4A	YES
Pisgah	Haywood	3A	4A	YES
South Rowan	Rowan	3A	4A	YES
Brevard	Transylvania	2A	4A	YES
Maiden	Catawba	2A	4A	YES
North Pitt	Pitt	2A	4A	YES
Seaforth	Chatham	2A	5A	YES
Concord	Cabarrus	3A	5A	YES
Durham School of the Arts	Durham	3A	5A	YES
East Lincoln	Lincoln	3A	5A	YES
East Rowan	Rowan	3A	5A	YES
Enka	Buncombe	3A	5A	YES
Franklin	Macon	3A	5A	YES
Jay M. Robinson	Cabarrus	3A	5A	YES
Jesse Carson	Rowan	3A	5A	YES
North Henderson	Henderson	3A	5A	YES
Northwest Cabarrus	Cabarrus	3A	5A	YES
West Henderson	Henderson	3A	5A	YES
West Rowan	Rowan	3A	5A	YES
Saint Pauls	Robeson	2A	5A	YES
Southeast Alamance	Alamance	2A	5A	YES

2026 NCHSAA Participation Data			Total 119	
School	County	2025 Class	2026 Class	2026 Participant
Douglas Byrd	Cumberland	3A	5A	YES
Eastern Alamance	Alamance	3A	5A	YES
Central Cabarrus	Cabarrus	3A	6A	YES
Piedmont	Union	3A	6A	YES
Swansboro	Onslow	3A	6A	YES
Charlotte Catholic	Mecklenburg	4A	6A	YES
Mount Tabor	Forsyth	4A	6A	YES
Northern Guilford	Guilford	4A	6A	YES
Olympic	Mecklenburg	4A	6A	YES
Phillip O Berry Academy of Technology	Mecklenburg	4A	6A	YES
Roberson	Buncombe	4A	6A	YES
Robert B Glenn	Forsyth	4A	6A	YES
Sun Valley	Union	4A	6A	YES
Watauga	Watauga	4A	6A	YES
A.C. Reynolds	Buncombe	3A	6A	YES
Asheboro	Randolph	3A	6A	YES
Ben L. Smith	Guilford	3A	6A	YES
St. Stephens	Catawba	3A	6A	YES
Southern School of Energy and Sustainability	Durham	3A	7A	YES
West Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	3A	7A	YES
A L Brown	Cabarrus	4A	7A	YES
Ballantyne Ridge	Mecklenburg	4A	7A	YES
Butler	Mecklenburg	4A	7A	YES
Cardinal Gibbons	Wake	4A	7A	YES
Chapel Hill	Orange	4A	7A	YES
Cox Mill	Cabarrus	4A	7A	YES
Cuthbertson	Union	4A	7A	YES
East Forsyth	Forsyth	4A	7A	YES
Hickory Ridge	Cabarrus	4A	7A	YES
Hillside	Durham	4A	7A	YES
Hopewell	Mecklenburg	4A	7A	YES
Lake Norman	Iredell	4A	7A	YES
Marvin Ridge	Union	4A	7A	YES
Mooreville	Iredell	4A	7A	YES
New Bern	Craven	4A	7A	YES
North Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	4A	7A	YES
Page	Guilford	4A	7A	YES
Porter Ridge	Union	4A	7A	YES
Reynolds	Forsyth	4A	7A	YES
Riverside-Durham	Durham	4A	7A	YES
Ronald W Reagan	Forsyth	4A	7A	YES
South Garner	Wake	4A	7A	YES
South Iredell	Iredell	4A	7A	YES
Southwest Guilford	Guilford	4A	7A	YES
Weddington	Union	4A	7A	YES
West Cabarrus	Cabarrus	4A	7A	YES
Davie County	Davie	4A	7A	YES
Lumberton Senior	Robeson	4A	7A	YES
Purnell Swett	Robeson	4A	7A	YES
Apex Friendship	Wake	4A	8A	YES
Ardrey Kell	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES

2026 NCHSAA Participation Data			Total 119	
School	County	2025 Class	2026 Class	2026 Participant
C E Jordan	Durham	4A	8A	YES
East Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES
Enloe	Wake	4A	8A	YES
Garinger	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES
Hoke County	Hoke	4A	8A	YES
Millbrook	Wake	4A	8A	YES
Myers Park	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES
Northwest Guilford	Guilford	4A	8A	YES
Palisades	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES
Panther Creek	Wake	4A	8A	YES
Providence	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES
South Mecklenburg	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES
Wakefield	Wake	4A	8A	YES
West Forsyth	Forsyth	4A	8A	YES
William Amos Hough	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES
West Charlotte	Mecklenburg	3A	8A	YES
Mallard Creek	Mecklenburg	4A	8A	YES

2027 CLASSES POST SANCTIONING					
	2026	Interested	Potential 2027	Notes	Playoff Teams
1A	10	11	21	Would combine for championship	48
2A	8	9	17		
3A	4	10	14		
4A	14	16	30	Over 50%, would get own championship	all
5A	17	14	31	Over 50%, would get own championship	all
6A	16	20	36	Over 50%, would get own championship	all
7A	31	23	54	Over 50%, would get own championship	48
8A	19	12	31	Over 50%, would get own championship	24

2027 Projected CONFERENCES POST SANCTIONING

School	Class	County	NCHSAA Conference	Boys VB Conference
Bertie	2A	Bertie	Albemarle (AAC) 2A	1
Bear Grass Charter	1A	Martin	Atlantic 1A	1
North East Carolina Prep	1A	Edgecombe	Eastern Carolina 1A	1
North Edgecombe	1A	Edgecombe	Eastern Carolina 1A	1
Tarboro	2A	Edgecombe	Eastern Plains 2A/3A	1
Martin County	3A	Martin	Northeastern Coastal 3A/4A/5A	1
Southwest Edgecombe	4A	Edgecombe	Three Rivers 4A	1
J.H. Rose	6A	Pitt	Big Carolina 6A/7A	2
D.H. Conley	7A	Pitt	Big Carolina 6A/7A	2
C.B. Aycock	5A	Wayne	Big East 5A/6A	2
Sallie B. Howard School	1A	Wilson	Eastern Carolina 1A	2
Ayden-Grifton	3A	Pitt	Eastern Plains 2A/3A	2
Goldsboro	3A	Wayne	Swine Valley 2A/3A	2
North Pitt	4A	Pitt	Three Rivers 4A	2
Northside - Jacksonville	5A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A	3
Richlands	5A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A	3
Northside - Pinetown	1A	Beaufort	Coastal Plains 1A/2A	3
Lejeune	2A	Onslow	Coastal Plains 1A/2A	3
Pamlico County	2A	Pamlico	Coastal Plains 1A/2A	3
Jacksonville	6A	Onslow	Big Carolina 6A/7A	4
New Bern	7A	Craven	Big Carolina 6A/7A	4
Dixon	5A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A	4
Swansboro	6A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A	4
West Craven	4A	Craven	Three Rivers 4A	4
Eugene Ashley	7A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A	5
New Hanover	7A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A	5
Emsley A Laney	8A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A	5
John T Hoggard	8A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A	5
Topsail	7A	Pender	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A	5
Douglas Byrd	5A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A	6
E.E. Smith	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A	6
Seventy-First	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A	6
South View	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A	6
Westover	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A	6
Saint Pauls	5A	Robeson	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A	6
Overhills	7A	Harnett	Mid-South 7A/8A	6
Jack Britt	7A	Cumberland	Mid-South 7A/8A	7
Pine Forest	7A	Cumberland	Mid-South 7A/8A	7
Hoke County	8A	Hoke	Mid-South 7A/8A	7
Gray's Creek	6A	Cumberland	Tri-County 6A/7A	7
Terry Sanford	6A	Cumberland	Tri-County 6A/7A	7
Cape Fear	7A	Cumberland	Tri-County 6A/7A	7
Lumberton Senior	7A	Robeson	Tri-County 6A/7A	7

2027 Projected CONFERENCES POST SANCTIONING

School	Class	County	NCHSAA Conference	Boys VB Conference
Purnell Swett	7A	Robeson	Tri-County 6A/7A	7
South Johnston	6A	Johnston	Carolina Pines 6A	8
West Johnston	6A	Johnston	Carolina Pines 6A	8
Lee County	6A	Lee	Carolina Pines 6A	8
Southern Lee	6A	Lee	Carolina Pines 6A	8
East Wake	7A	Wake	Northern Six 6A/7A	8
Heritage	7A	Wake	Northern Six 6A/7A	8
Wake Forest	7A	Wake	Northern Six 6A/7A	8
Southern Wake Academy	1A	Wake	Central Tar Heel 1A	9
Louisburg	3A	Franklin	Quad County 2A/3A/4A	9
Excelsior Classical Academy	1A	Durham	Triangle North 1A/2A	9
Falls Lake	1A	Granville	Triangle North 1A/2A	9
Eno River Academy	2A	Orange	Triangle North 1A/2A	9
Corinth Holders	8A	Johnston	CAP 8A	10
Athens Drive	8A	Wake	CAP 8A	10
Enloe	8A	Wake	CAP 8A	10
Leesville Road	8A	Wake	CAP 8A	10
Millbrook	8A	Wake	CAP 8A	10
Needham Broughton	8A	Wake	CAP 8A	10
Rolesville	8A	Wake	CAP 8A	10
Wakefield	8A	Wake	CAP 8A	10
N.C. School of Science & Math: Durham	3A	Durham	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A	11
Neuse Charter	1A	Johnston	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A	11
Roxboro Community	2A	Person	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A	11
East Wake Academy	2A	Wake	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A	11
Franklin Academy	2A	Wake	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A	11
Raleigh Charter	2A	Wake	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A	11
Triangle Math and Science Academy	2A	Wake	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A	11
Clayton	7A	Johnston	Greater Neuse River 7A	12
Cleveland	7A	Johnston	Greater Neuse River 7A	12
Smithfield-Selma	7A	Johnston	Greater Neuse River 7A	12
Fuquay-Varina	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A	12
Garner	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A	12
South Garner	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A	12
Southeast Raleigh	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A	12
C E Jordan	8A	Durham	Quad City Seven 8A	13
Apex	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A	13
Apex Friendship	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A	13
Green Hope	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A	13
Green Level	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A	13
Panther Creek	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A	13
Willow Spring	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A	13
Hillside	7A	Durham	Tobacco Road 6A/7A	14

2027 Projected CONFERENCES POST SANCTIONING

School	Class	County	NCHSAA Conference	Boys VB Conference
Riverside-Durham	7A	Durham	Tobacco Road 6A/7A	14
Southern School of Energy and Sustainability	7A	Durham	Tobacco Road 6A/7A	14
East Chapel Hill	6A	Orange	Tobacco Road 6A/7A	14
Chapel Hill	7A	Orange	Tobacco Road 6A/7A	14
Felton Grove	5A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A	15
Cardinal Gibbons	7A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A	15
Cary	7A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A	15
Holly Springs	7A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A	15
Sanderson	7A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A	15
Seaforth	5A	Chatham	Big Seven 4A/5A	16
Durham School of the Arts	5A	Durham	Big Seven 4A/5A	16
South Granville	4A	Granville	Big Seven 4A/5A	16
Carrboro	4A	Orange	Big Seven 4A/5A	16
Cedar Ridge	5A	Orange	Big Seven 4A/5A	16
Orange	5A	Orange	Big Seven 4A/5A	16
Graham	4A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A	17
Hugh M Cummings	4A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A	17
Eastern Alamance	5A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A	17
Southeast Alamance	5A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A	17
Western Alamance	5A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A	17
Southern Alamance	6A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A	17
Williams	6A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A	17
Thomasville	3A	Davidson	Central Carolina 3A	18
Jordan Matthews	4A	Chatham	Four Rivers 3A/4A	18
Southwestern Randolph	4A	Randolph	Four Rivers 3A/4A	18
Uwharrie Charter	4A	Randolph	Four Rivers 3A/4A	18
Randleman	4A	Randolph	PAC Seven 4A/5A	18
Lexington Senior	4A	Davidson	PAC Seven 4A/5A	18
Asheboro	6A	Randolph	TAAC Six 5A/6A	18
Trinity	3A	Randolph	Central Carolina 3A	19
Wheatmore	3A	Randolph	Central Carolina 3A	19
Providence Grove	3A	Randolph	Central Carolina 3A	19
Eastern Randolph	3A	Randolph	Four Rivers 3A/4A	19
Phoenix Academy	1A	Guilford	Northwest Piedmont 1A/2A	19
Triad Math and Science Academy	1A	Guilford	Northwest Piedmont 1A/2A	19
Bethany Community	1A	Rockingham	Northwest Piedmont 1A/2A	19
Clover Garden	1A	Alamance	Central Tar Heel 1A	20
River Mill	1A	Alamance	Central Tar Heel 1A	20
Chatham Charter	1A	Chatham	Central Tar Heel 1A	20
Woods Charter	1A	Chatham	Central Tar Heel 1A	20
Ascend Leadership Academy: Lee County	1A	Lee	Central Tar Heel 1A	20
Central Carolina Academy	1A	Lee	Central Tar Heel 1A	20
East Forsyth	7A	Forsyth	Central Piedmont 7A/8A	21

2027 Projected CONFERENCES POST SANCTIONING

School	Class	County	NCHSAA Conference	Boys VB Conference
Reynolds	7A	Forsyth	Central Piedmont 7A/8A	21
Ronald W Reagan	7A	Forsyth	Central Piedmont 7A/8A	21
West Forsyth	8A	Forsyth	Central Piedmont 7A/8A	21
Northwest Guilford	8A	Guilford	Central Piedmont 7A/8A	21
Mount Tabor	6A	Forsyth	Piedmont Triad 5A/6A	21
Robert B Glenn	6A	Forsyth	Piedmont Triad 5A/6A	21
Northern Guilford	6A	Guilford	TAAC Six 5A/6A	21
Ben L. Smith	6A	Guilford	Metro 6A/7A	22
Lucy Ragsdale	6A	Guilford	Metro 6A/7A	22
Grimsley	7A	Guilford	Metro 6A/7A	22
Page	7A	Guilford	Metro 6A/7A	22
Southwest Guilford	7A	Guilford	Metro 6A/7A	22
Salisbury	4A	Rowan	South Piedmont 4A/5A	23
South Rowan	4A	Rowan	South Piedmont 4A/5A	23
West Rowan	5A	Rowan	South Piedmont 4A/5A	23
West Iredell	4A	Iredell	Western Foothills 4A/5A	23
North Rowan	2A	Rowan	Yadkin Valley 2A/3A	23
Jackson Day School	1A	Mecklenburg	Catawba River 1A/2A/3A	24
Mountain Island Charter	2A	Mecklenburg	Catawba River 1A/2A/3A	24
Langtree Charter	2A	Iredell	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A	24
Pine Lake Preparatory	3A	Iredell	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A	24
Bradford Prep	2A	Mecklenburg	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A	24
Christ the King	2A	Mecklenburg	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A	24
Community School of Davidson	2A	Mecklenburg	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A	24
Concord	5A	Cabarrus	South Piedmont 4A/5A	25
Jay M. Robinson	5A	Cabarrus	South Piedmont 4A/5A	25
Northwest Cabarrus	5A	Cabarrus	South Piedmont 4A/5A	25
East Rowan	5A	Rowan	South Piedmont 4A/5A	25
Jesse Carson	5A	Rowan	South Piedmont 4A/5A	25
Central Cabarrus	6A	Cabarrus	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
A L Brown	7A	Cabarrus	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
Cox Mill	7A	Cabarrus	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
Hickory Ridge	7A	Cabarrus	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
West Cabarrus	7A	Cabarrus	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
Harding University	6A	Mecklenburg	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
Olympic	6A	Mecklenburg	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
Phillip O Berry Academy of Technology	6A	Mecklenburg	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A	26
Davie County	7A	Davie	North Piedmont 6A/7A	27
North Iredell	6A	Iredell	North Piedmont 6A/7A	27
Lake Norman	7A	Iredell	North Piedmont 6A/7A	27
Mooresville	7A	Iredell	North Piedmont 6A/7A	27
South Iredell	7A	Iredell	North Piedmont 6A/7A	27
Anson	4A	Anson	Rocky River 4A/5A	28

2027 Projected CONFERENCES POST SANCTIONING

School	Class	County	NCHSAA Conference	Boys VB Conference
Mount Pleasant	4A	Cabarrus	Rocky River 4A/5A	28
Central Academy	4A	Union	Rocky River 4A/5A	28
Forest Hills	5A	Union	Rocky River 4A/5A	28
Monroe	5A	Union	Rocky River 4A/5A	28
Parkwood	5A	Union	Rocky River 4A/5A	28
Union Academy	3A	Union	Yadkin Valley 2A/3A	28
Hopewell	7A	Mecklenburg	Greater Charlotte 7A/8A	29
West Mecklenburg	7A	Mecklenburg	Greater Charlotte 7A/8A	29
Garinger	8A	Mecklenburg	Greater Charlotte 7A/8A	29
Myers Park	8A	Mecklenburg	Greater Charlotte 7A/8A	29
South Mecklenburg	8A	Mecklenburg	Greater Charlotte 7A/8A	29
William Amos Hough	8A	Mecklenburg	Greater Charlotte 7A/8A	29
Butler	7A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A	30
Independence	7A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A	30
North Mecklenburg	7A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A	30
Julius L. Chambers	8A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A	30
Mallard Creek	8A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A	30
West Charlotte	8A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A	30
Ballantyne Ridge	7A	Mecklenburg	Southwestern 7A/8A	31
Rocky River	7A	Mecklenburg	Southwestern 7A/8A	31
Ardrey Kell	8A	Mecklenburg	Southwestern 7A/8A	31
East Mecklenburg	8A	Mecklenburg	Southwestern 7A/8A	31
Palisades	8A	Mecklenburg	Southwestern 7A/8A	31
Providence	8A	Mecklenburg	Southwestern 7A/8A	31
Charlotte Catholic	6A	Mecklenburg	Southern Carolina 6A/7A	32
Piedmont	6A	Union	Southern Carolina 6A/7A	32
Sun Valley	6A	Union	Southern Carolina 6A/7A	32
Cuthbertson	7A	Union	Southern Carolina 6A/7A	32
Marvin Ridge	7A	Union	Southern Carolina 6A/7A	32
Porter Ridge	7A	Union	Southern Carolina 6A/7A	32
Weddington	7A	Union	Southern Carolina 6A/7A	32
Hunter Huss	5A	Gaston	Big South 5A/6A	33
Lincoln Charter	4A	Lincoln	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A	33
Bandys	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A	33
Maiden	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A	33
East Lincoln	5A	Lincoln	Western Foothills 4A/5A	33
St. Stephens	6A	Catawba	Northwestern 6A/7A	34
Newton-Conover	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A	34
Bunker Hill	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A	34
Fred T. Foard	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A	34
Hickory	5A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A	34
NCSSM: Morganton	1A	Burke	Catawba River 1A/2A/3A	35
Ashe County	4A	Ashe	Mountain Valley 2A/3A/4A	35

2027 *Projected* CONFERENCES POST SANCTIONING

School	Class	County	NCHSAA Conference	Boys VB Conference
Watauga	6A	Watauga	Northwestern 6A/7A	35
East Burke	4A	Burke	Western Piedmont 3A/4A	35
Hibritten	4A	Caldwell	Western Piedmont 3A/4A	35
Asheville	6A	Asheville	Mountain 5A/6A	36
Enka	5A	Buncombe	Mountain 5A/6A	36
Erwin	5A	Buncombe	Mountain 5A/6A	36
A.C. Reynolds	6A	Buncombe	Mountain 5A/6A	36
Asheville	6A	Buncombe	Mountain 5A/6A	36
Roberson	6A	Buncombe	Mountain 5A/6A	36
East Henderson	4A	Henderson	Mountain Eight 4A/5A	37
North Henderson	5A	Henderson	Mountain Eight 4A/5A	37
West Henderson	5A	Henderson	Mountain Eight 4A/5A	37
Owen	3A	Buncombe	Westernlands 2A/3A	37
Hendersonville	3A	Henderson	Westernlands 2A/3A	37
Brevard	4A	Transylvania	Mountain Eight 4A/5A	38
Pisgah	4A	Haywood	Mountain Eight 4A/5A	38
Franklin	5A	Macon	Mountain Eight 4A/5A	38
Highlands	1A	Macon	Smoky Mountain 1A/2A	38
Cherokee	2A	Swain	Smoky Mountain 1A/2A	38

PROJECTED PARTICIPATION POST SANCTIONING

These are schools where there is high student interest and/or the AD has said they would have it when sanctioned.

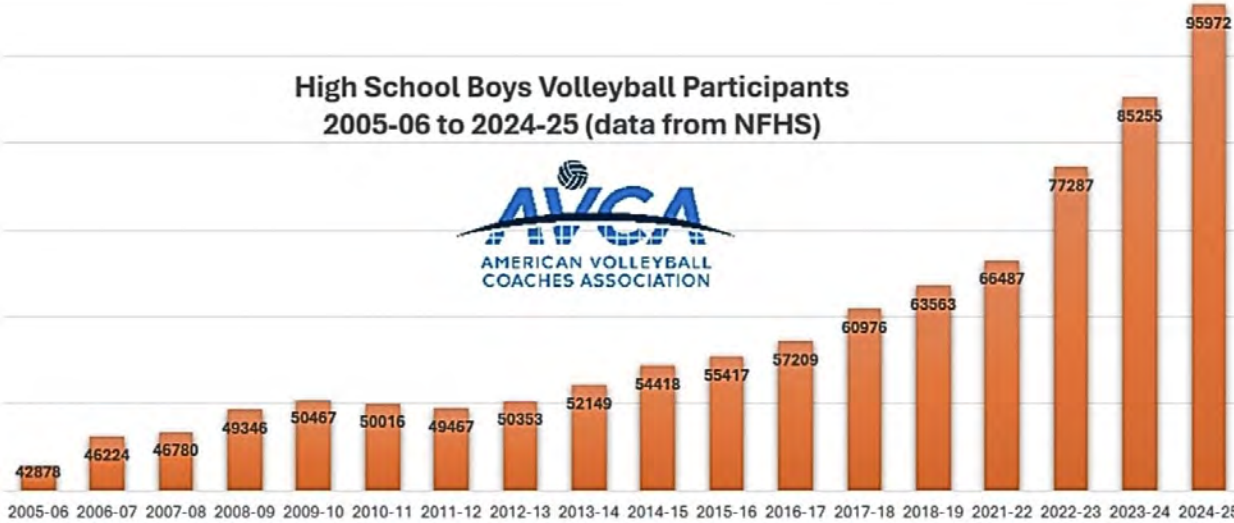
School	2026 Class	County	Conference
Southern Wake Academy	1A	Wake	Central Tar Heel 1A
Jackson Day School	1A	Mecklenburg	Catawba River 1A/2A/3A
Bear Grass Charter	1A	Martin	Atlantic 1A
Highlands	1A	Macon	Smoky Mountain 1A/2A
Neuse Charter	1A	Johnston	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A
North East Carolina Prep	1A	Edgecombe	Eastern Carolina 1A
North Edgecombe	1A	Edgecombe	Eastern Carolina 1A
Excelsior Classical Academy	1A	Durham	Triangle North 1A/2A
Woods Charter	1A	Chatham	North Carolina
Northside - Pinetown	1A	Beaufort	Coastal Plains 1A/2A
Clover Garden	1A	Alamance	Central Tar Heel 1A
River Mill	1A	Alamance	Central Tar Heel 1A
East Wake Academy	2A	Wake	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A
Franklin Academy	2A	Wake	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A
Raleigh Charter	2A	Wake	Diamond Nine 1A/2A/3A
Cherokee	2A	Swain	Smoky Mountain 1A/2A
Pamlico County	2A	Pamlico	Coastal Plains 1A/2A
Lejeune	2A	Onslow	Coastal Plains 1A/2A
Langtree Charter	2A	Iredell	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A
Langtree Charter	2A	Iredell	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A
Tarboro	2A	Edgecombe	Eastern Plains 2A/3A
Bertie	2A	Bertie	Albemarle (AAC) 2A
Providence Grove	3A	Randolph	Central Carolina 3A
Trinity	3A	Randolph	Central Carolina 3A
Wheatmore	3A	Randolph	Central Carolina 3A
Eastern Randolph	3A	Randolph	Four Rivers 3A/4A
Ayden-Grifton	3A	Pitt	Eastern Plains 2A/3A
Martin County	3A	Martin	Northeastern Coastal 3A/4A/5A
Pine Lake Preparatory	3A	Iredell	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A
Pine Lake Preparatory	3A	Iredell	Catawba Shores 2A/3A/4A
Hendersonville	3A	Henderson	Westernlands 2A/3A
Louisburg	3A	Franklin	Quad County 2A/3A/4A
Louisburg	3A	Franklin	Quad County 2A/3A/4A
Owen	3A	Buncombe	Westernlands 2A/3A
Uwharrie Charter	4A	Randolph	Four Rivers 3A/4A
Southwestern Randolph	4A	Randolph	Four Rivers 3A/4A
Randleman	4A	Randolph	PAC Seven 4A/5A
West Iredell	4A	Iredell	Western Foothills 4A/5A
East Henderson	4A	Henderson	Mountain Eight 4A/5A
South Granville	4A	Granville	Big Seven 4A/5A
South Granville	4A	Granville	Big Seven 4A/5A
Southwest Edgecombe	4A	Edgecombe	Three Rivers 4A
Bandys	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A
Bunker Hill	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A
Fred T. Foard	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A
Newton-Conover	4A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A
Hibritten	4A	Caldwell	Western Piedmont 3A/4A
Ashe County	4A	Ashe	Mountain Valley 2A/3A/4A
Anson	4A	Anson	Rocky River 4A/5A

PROJECTED PARTICIPATION POST SANCTIONING			
These are schools where there is high student interest and/or the AD has said they would have it when sanctioned.			
School	2026 Class	County	Conference
Graham	4A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A
Hugh M Cummings	4A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A
C.B. Aycock	5A	Wayne	Big East 5A/6A
Felton Grove	5A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A
Parkwood	5A	Union	Rocky River 4A/5A
Forest Hills	5A	Union	Rocky River 4A/5A
Monroe	5A	Union	Rocky River 4A/5A
Orange	5A	Orange	Big Seven 4A/5A
Cedar Ridge	5A	Orange	Big Seven 4A/5A
Dixon	5A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A
Northside - Jacksonville	5A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A
Richlands	5A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A
Hunter Huss	5A	Gaston	Big South 5A/6A
Hickory	5A	Catawba	Western Foothills 4A/5A
Erwin	5A	Buncombe	Mountain 5A/6A
Western Alamance	5A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A
J.H. Rose	6A	Pitt	Big Carolina 6A/7A
East Chapel Hill	6A	Orange	Tobacco Road 6A/7A
Jacksonville	6A	Onslow	Big Carolina 6A/7A
Swansboro	6A	Onslow	Coastal 5A/6A
Harding University	6A	Mecklenburg	Greater Metro (GMAC) 6A/7A
Lee County	6A	Lee	Carolina Pines 6A
Southern Lee	6A	Lee	Carolina Pines 6A
South Johnston	6A	Johnston	Carolina Pines 6A
West Johnston	6A	Johnston	Carolina Pines 6A
North Iredell	6A	Iredell	North Piedmont 6A/7A
Lucy Ragsdale	6A	Guilford	Metro 6A/7A
E.E. Smith	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A
Seventy-First	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A
South View	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A
Westover	6A	Cumberland	Eastern Sandhills 5A/6A
Gray's Creek	6A	Cumberland	Tri-County 6A/7A
Terry Sanford	6A	Cumberland	Tri-County 6A/7A
Asheville	6A	Buncombe	Mountain 5A/6A
Southern Alamance	6A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A
Williams	6A	Alamance	Mid-Carolina 4A/5A/6A
South Garner	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A
Fuquay-Varina	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A
Garner	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A
Southeast Raleigh	7A	Wake	Greater Neuse River 7A
East Wake	7A	Wake	Northern Six 6A/7A
Heritage	7A	Wake	Northern Six 6A/7A
Wake Forest	7A	Wake	Northern Six 6A/7A
Cary	7A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A
Holly Springs	7A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A
Sanderson	7A	Wake	Triangle Six 6A/7A
D.H. Conley	7A	Pitt	Big Carolina 6A/7A
Topsail	7A	Pender	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A

PROJECTED PARTICIPATION POST SANCTIONING			
These are schools where there is high student interest and/or the AD has said they would have it when sanctioned.			
School	2026 Class	County	Conference
Eugene Ashley	7A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A
New Hanover	7A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A
Rocky River	7A	Mecklenburg	Southwestern 7A/8A
Independence	7A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A
Clayton	7A	Johnston	Greater Neuse River 7A
Cleveland	7A	Johnston	Greater Neuse River 7A
Smithfield-Selma	7A	Johnston	Greater Neuse River 7A
Overhills	7A	Harnett	Mid-South 7A/8A
Grimsley	7A	Guilford	Metro 6A/7A
Jack Britt	7A	Cumberland	Mid-South 7A/8A
Pine Forest	7A	Cumberland	Mid-South 7A/8A
Cape Fear	7A	Cumberland	Tri-County 6A/7A
Athens Drive	8A	Wake	CAP 8A
Leesville Road	8A	Wake	CAP 8A
Needham Broughton	8A	Wake	CAP 8A
Rolesville	8A	Wake	CAP 8A
Apex	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A
Green Hope	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A
Green Level	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A
Willow Spring	8A	Wake	Quad City Seven 8A
Emsley A Laney	8A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A
John T Hoggard	8A	New Hanover	Carolina Coast 6A/7A/8A
Julius L. Chambers	8A	Mecklenburg	Meck Power Six 7A/8A
Corinth Holders	8A	Johnston	CAP 8A

NFHS DATA

High School Boys Volleyball Participants
2005-06 to 2024-25 (data from NFHS)



10 Year % Change in Boys Sports Participation

Baseball	-2.87%
Basketball	-0.14%
Cross Country	-4.90%
Football (11 man)	-4.85%
Golf	9.09%
Lacrosse	n/a
Soccer	12.10%
Swimming/Diving	-13.12%
Tennis	0.91%
Track and Field Indoor	n/a
Track and Field Outdoor	11.35%
Volleyball	76.36%
Wrestling	16.27%

National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
 "High School Athletics Participation Survey, 2024-25." Retrieved from
<https://nfhs.org/resources/sports/high-school-participation-survey-archive>.
 Compiled and presented by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA).

1-3A BRACKET



4A BRACKET



1ST TEAM ALL STATE

1-3A NCHSAA SCHOOLS

MVP/ALL STATE
LEV MARUSHEVSKYI / TMSA
SILAS LOWDER / MT. PLEASANT

TORIN LETO TMSA	CHRIS LANGE TMSA	MASON PERKINS MT PLEASANT
CAMERON PAUL ENO RIVER	LANDON CAVE ENO RIVER	DHRUV SRINIVASAN UNION ACADEMY
CARTER ZORN UNION ACADEMY	CHRIS ROZARIO NCSSM - DURHAM	BRODEN JONES SEAFORTH
ALEX SANTANA ENKA		ELI WITHERS LINCOLN CHARTER

2ND TEAM ALL STATE

1-3A NCHSAA SCHOOLS

SHANKARA DHAMODARAN TMSA	ALPEREN YOGURTCU TMSA
CAYDEN SMITH MT PLEASANT	GABE SHACKLEFORD MT PLEASANT
ISAAC EVANS UNION ACADEMY	ABRAM ZINC ENO RIVER
THOMAS D'AMATO LINCOLN CHARTER	GAEL SANTANA ENKA
LUCAS FERRI SEAFORTH	SAM KOWALAK NCSSM-DURHAM
GAVIN BISCO SOUTH ROWAN	ALEXANDER KIEFER SWANSBORO
FORREST BOYLES FALLS LAKE	BRANSON DRESCHER BRADFORD PREP
COOPER KRUK PISGAH	BRADY MILLIGAN CHRIST THE KING
NOAH RAMSEY EAST BURKE	LEVI LINDEGREN LEXINGTON

HONORABLE MENTION ALL STATE

1-3A NCHSAA SCHOOLS

CARTER ROWLAND MT PLEASANT	COLE CREEDLE ENO RIVER	MAX WILLIAMS UNION ACADEMY
PIERSON DAVIS NCSSM - DURHAM	JASON ANTLEY SEAFORTH	NOAH FATZINGER LINCOLN CHARTER
CAYDEN ROSCOE EAST BURKE	GAVIN PARKHOUSE CHRIST THE KING	DOMINICK MESSER PISGAH
LUKE HANSON BRADFORD PREP	JOSUE NETTLENTON FALLS LAKE	JOSHUA BERRY SWANSBORO
JOSH ECHENIQUE NORTHERN GUILFORD	WANTONG PHOEUN NORTH HENDERSON	JAMISON FYRE EAST LINCOLN
WALTER PACHECO WEST MECK	CHANSE KINCHEN J.M. ROBINSON	MALAKHI'S HARRIS ORANGE
ANGELO VERA JORDAN MATTHEWS	KOLDEN GRAVES CENTRAL DAVIDSON	BRAEDEN MCPHAIL WAYNE SCH OF ENG
CARLOS LANDAVERDE SOUTH ROWAN	RYAN KEETEN PHOENIX ACADEMY	ERIBERTO "EDDI" SANTANA ENKA

1ST TEAM ALL STATE

4A NCHSAA SCHOOLS

MVP/ALL STATE
LIAM SHUGART / WEST FORSYTH
NOAH GAUTHIER / HOUGH

JACSON ARNAEZ WEST FORSYTH	COOPER WARMAN WEST FORSYTH	JADEN VERHOEVEN HOUGH
CAELEN EWING CHAPEL HILL	ELIOT MCBRIDE CHAPEL HILL	OWEN CONKLIN WEDDINGTON
LIAM DE QUADROS WEDDINGTON	DEAN LOWE TC ROBERSON	SKYY RUSSELL RIVERSIDE
DYLAN COULOMBE REAGAN		JACKSON BLAUER ARDREY KELL

2ND TEAM ALL STATE

4A NCHSAA SCHOOLS

NIKY CAPISTRANO WEST FORSYTH	SETH COCKERHAM WEST FORSYTH
COLTEN SHORT HOUGH	LANDON HIXON HOUGH
LEV MIKHIEIEV WEDDINGTON	BEN KAPLAN CHAPEL HILL
RYAN NEAL TC ROBERSON	LEDELL MILLIKEN ARDREY KELL
BLAKE WINNAIL MARVIN RIDGE	COLIN TOWNES PROVIDENCE
VINNY NGUYEN A.L. BROWN	CHRISTOPHER DOUGHERTY EAST MECK
ROHIT MENON PANTHER CREEK	JASON CHAVIS NORTHERN GUILFORD
BEN FULK MILLBROOK	ELIAS TSIIOUSTIAS EAST FORSYTH
JACOB FELLER RIVERSIDE	LUKE ROSENBERGER REAGAN

HONORABLE MENTION ALL STATE

4A NCHSAA SCHOOLS

NAMISH CHOPRA WEDDINGTON	EVAN OTTO HOUGH	GARRETT WALLS ENLOE
XANDER LESEMANN CHAPEL HILL	LUKE SIVER TC ROBERSON	JOSIAH NAPIHAA NEW BERN
LUKE BRANSCOM ARDREY KELL	JOHN FELLER RIVERSIDE	TYLER HINES HOKE COUNTY
GRAY RANEY REAGAN	RILEY TURNER AL BROWN	WILL PARK C.E. JORDAN
MILES GINESI EAST MECK	THOMAS DIXON PANTHER CREEK	DEVIN PHAM PALISADES
JOSH ECHENIQUE NORTHERN GUILFORD	OSCAR QUINN MILLBROOK	GRIFFIN HARRIS COX MILL
IASAIAH JACKSON EAST FORSYTH	DYLAN MUDRI NORTHWEST GUILFORD	LOGAN DARR CUTHBERTSON
ABRAR HUDA PROVIDENCE	RYDER REYNOLDS SOUTH IREDELL	JOSEPH MOY MARVIN RIDGE

PLAYERS TESTIMONIALS

NC high school athletes — in their own words

“

I used to be a shut-in kid who spent all day on his phone. I had barely any in-person friends and I didn't care for any other sport. However I loved volleyball but never had the chance to play it. I'm new to North Carolina — I've only been here for a month or two — and I already have a team of 14 people I can rely on. I'm losing weight, I'm a lot happier, and I can't think of another thing I'd rather spend my days doing. I love volleyball, and if I have this taken away from me next year, I'm scared I'll end up the same kid I was a couple months ago.

“Volleyball is more than a game. It's a lifestyle.”

— Anonymous

“

I walked onto the court having never played the sport before, but the team took a chance on me. That transition from "beginner" to "contributor" had a massive impact on my future. It taught me that I could master new challenges under pressure — a mindset that carried over into my studies as a Centennial Scholar at NC State. The sport provided more than just exercise; it gave me a sense of belonging and a connection to a statewide community that I never would have discovered otherwise.

“Sanctioning boys' volleyball is about more than just a game; it is about providing an accessible platform for growth, character, and lifelong community to a demographic of students who are currently sitting on the sidelines waiting for their chance to play.”

— Brian Rojo • A.L. Brown High School

“

I've played volleyball since I was 7 years old. For the first four years of my career, I had to play on girls' teams because that was the only option. When I was 10, I aged out, and my mom drove me down to Florida every other weekend to play on the nearest competitive boys team. A year later, the first boys club team in the area started and the core group of us grew up together, eventually becoming one of the best boys club teams in the country. I've since played at the collegiate level and traveled the country because of this sport. None of that would have been possible without someone creating the opportunity first.

“Sanctioning boys volleyball matters because it transforms lives — just like it did mine — by teaching values that last far beyond the game.”

— James Hartley • Marvin Ridge High School • Princeton University

“

Volleyball has provided me with community, confidence, and an outlet for the past 10 years — all because I got the opportunity to start playing in 8th grade. Without it, I can't imagine how different my life would be. Back in high school, my teammates would always support me, whether I was working on something at practice or rallying behind a student council initiative or my nonprofit — they were always first in line. In college, I continued the sport, and the community I found there has followed me all the way to Chicago. Not to mention, the sport gave me something to be proud of that kept me active and confident off the court.

“Ten years into playing volleyball, I can confidently say the sport was the foundation for my confidence, leadership skills, closest relationships, fitness, and overall happiness — and everyone deserves that opportunity.”

— Neal Damani • Marvin Ridge High School – Georgia Tech

“

Boys volleyball really gave me the opportunity to share my love and passion for the sport. It changed me in multiple ways — my confidence on the court and on a day-to-day basis. It strengthened my mindset because I had to learn from my mistakes and keep motivating myself physically and academically. I've made many friends and grown alongside my teammates. Boys volleyball doesn't just let players play a sport they love — it gives them an opportunity to connect with their peers and build a deeper relationship with their school.

“Volleyball is my therapy. It provided an escape from my surroundings and allowed me to truly be myself.”

— Anonymous

“

I'm not a very social person and I tend to be left out. When I found out that my school had a men's volleyball team, I was really interested in trying out — and I ended up making the team. I wasn't very good, but the environment was great. Everyone was supportive and made me feel like I was part of a family. I have come out of my shell and became more social, and it has been amazing. How did I go from never playing volleyball outside of PE to being the JV captain as a freshman? These people are my family, and other people deserve to have a team this good.

“Men's volleyball is more than a game — it is a great family and community that everyone deserves.”

— Anonymous

“

Starting high school as a dual athlete playing both tennis and volleyball opened up many opportunities for me. When it came time to make my decision, I'm sure that 100 out of 100 times I would choose volleyball. Between our amazing coach and the brotherhood formed among teammates, volleyball gave me something to look forward to after every school day. As varsity captain this year, I was pushed out of my comfort zone — helping teach players who didn't have half the experience I did. Through that, I developed patience and self-control I didn't know I had. Even though we weren't considered a "real" sport at school, it never felt that way.

“A sport is a sport and no student athlete should be told otherwise.”

— Pratham Oruganti • Weddington High School

“

I didn't even know volleyball was a big sport for men until my junior year of high school. I ended up playing the last two years of my high school career and enjoyed it so much that I sought to play in college. I've now been playing three years at NC State and will be president of the club next year. It has taken me all across the country — Phoenix, San Diego, Kansas City, and all along the East Coast. Many of my best friends have come from playing volleyball, and I am so glad I was introduced to the sport in high school.

“Boys volleyball has given me my greatest friends in life, taken me places all across the country, and opened many doors I didn't even know existed.”

— **Tyler Flickinger** • Weddington High School '23

“

My family has never been big on volleyball — just a bunch of track athletes and football players. But this is my second year and I instantly fell in love with the sport. Our team has brought the community and the whole school together because we are so diverse: football players, band members, basketball players, mathletes. I have gained friendships with people I never thought I would be friends with, and watching us grow as a team is the best part. So many boys in our county have told me they want to play, but their school won't make a team until sanctioning happens.

“Why not be a part of history?”

— **Karvin Magwood** • New Bern High School

PARENTS & FAMILIES

The families behind the players

“

This is the first time in his whole life he has ever wanted to play a sport. He has always been the introvert — not one to exert himself, not someone who fit in. He's finally happy and wants to continue. Please don't take this away from the kids.

“Volleyball has changed my son for the best. He now wants to be involved in activities. This is amazing.”

— Anonymous

“

Volleyball has been transformational for our fifth of seven children in every positive way. Joseph took up volleyball as a freshman at my encouragement and quickly developed a deep passion for the sport — hitting the gym five days a week, increasing his vertical from 25 to 38 inches, and becoming the starting setter and team captain all four years. He encouraged his teammates to be and play their best, championing “there's no I in TEAM.” He is now committed to NC State's Engineering program and hopes to continue his volleyball career there.

“Sanctioning boys' volleyball in North Carolina isn't just about adding a game — it's about giving young men an official stage to develop the discipline, leadership, and lifelong friendships that will elevate their futures.”

— Andrew Moy • Marvin Ridge High School

“

It's been a place where confidence grew, friendships formed, and our child truly found himself.

“It's more than a sport — it's where boys grow into disciplined, confident leaders.”

— Anonymous

“

Volleyball has been a huge turning point for our family, for two reasons. First and foremost, it has kept our oldest son in school. He has absolutely fallen in love with this sport. It has given him a reason to look forward — something he desperately needed. And on top of that, I used to play volleyball myself. There is nothing like reliving your youth through the eyes of your children.

“You only get to live once — play ball.”

— Sherry Phillips • Parent

“

My son has loved getting to try something new at an older age and found out he loves volleyball. He loves that he can put in work individually and as a team, and his confidence has grown so much as he's mastered skills and started playing at higher levels. It's also been a social opportunity for him to meet new people and learn to handle conflict in an age-appropriate way when things don't go as planned. He's even chosen to go back to public school because he loves the game so much and wants to play as much as possible.

“Since volleyball is a game of mistakes, boys volleyball is an opportunity to develop team unity and compassion for one another on the court.”

— Anonymous

“

I have watched my son flourish in a team sport. He played basketball and baseball when he was little but never really excelled at either. He did track when he got to high school, but he was alone doing his event. With Reynolds adding men's volleyball, he tried it out and loved it. Being part of a team — and forming the first team in school history — made him feel proud. Last weekend, they went to a park together and played beach volleyball. The way they encourage each other and the bonds they have formed has done nothing but bring me joy.

“Men's volleyball in high school expands athletic opportunities, promotes inclusivity, and develops teamwork and discipline in a fast-growing sport.”

— Kenny Gutch • AC Reynolds High School

“

As a female, I was able to play volleyball in middle school, high school, and college. My daughters have always had the opportunity to play. My oldest son has always loved the sport, but nothing was available for him as an athlete. Now, 11 years later, his younger brother is excited that he will finally get to play volleyball in school as a high school freshman. He had the opportunity to play on a club team when he was 10, but due to finances has been unable to since. I have watched the positive impact volleyball had on my daughters — now I get to see my son experience these things too.

“It is time our boys have the opportunity to experience the benefits of this amazing sport.”

— Glenda Hadden Lowery • St. Paul's High School

“

Boys volleyball became my son's favorite sport after he discovered it at age 13. He was part of the first boys varsity volleyball team at his school and played three years of high school varsity, which became a defining part of his high school experience. While club volleyball provides a strong competitive environment, it is not accessible to every boy. The cost can be too high for many families, which makes school volleyball especially important. For many students, school is the main gateway into sports, teamwork, and personal growth. When my son first started playing, only two players on the team had any prior experience — by the end, they were a team.

“Boys volleyball matters because with just a ball and a few friends, boys can play almost anywhere while learning teamwork, confidence, resilience, and life lessons that extend far beyond the game.”

— Leonid Marushevskyi • Triangle Math and Science Academy

“

Men's volleyball has been such a blessing for the students of East Burke. This team is made up of a demographic of students who before now have been overlooked and not had a sport to call their own. The love of the game, the team building, and the sense of belonging really show through and are a sight to behold on our EBHS men's team.

“Men's volleyball is more than just a sport — it is a newfound passion for young men who could use this opportunity to better themselves, and maybe even go to college when that wasn't an option before.”

— Becca Ramsey • East Burke High School

“

Our son had a hard time with friends. He's a COVID middle schooler, and he was struggling until volleyball — when he started doing really well. The friendships he's made have been priceless for his junior and senior years. He's grown in confidence and has matured in innumerable ways. Can't say enough about what's happened during these two years of volleyball.

“Boys volleyball is a sport that can be played an entire life — and it only makes sense to sanction that type of sport.”

— Anonymous

COACHES

The coaches who witness the transformation every season

“

For the past decade, I have had the privilege of coaching boys volleyball, raising three sons who play, and leading the statewide effort to build sustainable high school programs across North Carolina. What began as a grassroots effort has become a fully organized movement — today, more than 1,200 NCHSAA schools are fielding boys volleyball teams, with officials trained, playoff structures designed, and RPI calculations modeled directly after the girls game.

I have watched boys walk into a gym unsure — often learning the sport later in their high school careers — and grow into confident leaders. Volleyball demands communication, accountability, and resilience. After every point, teammates come together. They regroup. They reset. That consistent connection builds belonging and combats the isolation many teenage boys experience. I have seen shy freshmen become team captains. I have seen students who felt disconnected find their people.

The infrastructure is established. Participation thresholds have been met and sustained. The administrative model mirrors an existing, successful sport. This is not a request for something untested. It is recognition of something already built and ready to grow even further.

“Sanctioning boys volleyball honors the players who helped grow it, supports the athletes currently competing, and ensures that future students have equitable access to a sport that is here to stay.”

— **Sarah Conklin** • Marvin Ridge & Weddington High Schools • Founder, NC Boys Volleyball Association • Parent of Three Boys Who Play

“

Boys volleyball has been a transformative force for our family and this school, bridging the gap between mentorship and personal growth. As a coach, I've watched these young men develop a level of communication and court intelligence that translates directly into leadership off the court — but seeing that same confidence take root in my own two sons has been the true highlight. For our athletes, most of whom have not played other sports, this isn't just a game; it's an opportunity to find their voices, build lasting friendships, and prove that there is a massive, rewarding space for them in the local sports community.

“Boys volleyball is more than just a game — it's where these guys find their confidence and build a true brotherhood in a safe, competitive environment.”

— **Adam Miller** • New Bern High School

“

Our school is 40% Hispanic. The one sport most of these kids play is soccer. Once they were introduced to volleyball, they were excited to hear about potentially having a boys team. Boys who otherwise would not be involved in athletics are trying something new. It's bringing their families together at the school and helping us reach them academically. It helps with attendance and grades.

The students try harder to get here, and work harder in classes, because they know they will not be able to participate otherwise.

“Boys volleyball matters because it opens the door for new students to belong, pushes them to succeed academically, and brings families into our school community in ways we haven't seen before.”

— **Jessica Chapman** • Clyde A Erwin High School

“

High school boys volleyball has had a profound impact on both of my sons. It has given them a meaningful way to connect with their school community while developing important life skills like time management, accountability, and commitment. While they've had the opportunity to compete with travel teams, both of my sons strongly prefer the experience of representing their school. There is something uniquely powerful about wearing your school's jersey, competing alongside classmates, and contributing to a shared sense of pride.

“Overheard from a dad on our team: “I would have given my left foot to play volleyball for my high school.”

— **Patrick Shugart** • West Forsyth High School

“

Boys volleyball has given an opportunity for more students to be involved in extracurricular activities at school. Most of the boys that play on my team do not participate in any other athletics at school. It has created a group of young men who want to be together, want to be successful, and want to learn. It has created leadership opportunities for students who would not have had the chance to be leaders in school. Having a boys volleyball team has helped not only involve more male students in school activities — but also female students, who now have the opportunity to give back as managers.

“Boys volleyball has added a place for students to be part of the school community as more than just a student.”

— **Anonymous Coach**

“

This is my 19th year coaching women's volleyball at East Lincoln High School. Deciding to start the boys program two years ago has been such a positive impact on so many in our community. It has given the opportunity for those who have never been to a volleyball game to step on the court and try something new — parents of soccer players, football players, and even "Mathletes" now part of something quickly becoming popular. While sometimes it is hysterical watching the most athletic boys look like uncoordinated baby giraffes, the grit and determination they bring is different than the girls — and just as inspiring.

“Sanctioning boys volleyball would legitimize the hard work already being put in by athletes and coaches, and create equitable opportunities for male student-athletes to compete at a high level.”

— **Stacy Possert** • East Lincoln High School

“

Boys volleyball has brought a whole new community to my life and my family. My family has been heavily involved in the football and women's volleyball programs at East for over a decade. Combining those two communities through boys volleyball has been wonderful. The support the men's team shows for the women's team — and vice versa — is unmatched. It is rare that our stands are not filled with fans from both programs cheering each other on. This is what high school sports should look like.

“Boys volleyball matters because the boys matter. For a lot of them, this is the first sport they have been able to find themselves in.”

— **Bailee Hepler** • East Rowan High School

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

The administrators who run our school athletic programs

“

As the Athletic Director at Asheboro High School, I have seen firsthand the positive impact boys volleyball has had on our students and our school community. The sport has provided young men with another meaningful opportunity to compete, build confidence, and develop strong friendships while representing their school with pride. Boys volleyball has helped students grow as leaders and teammates, creating a welcoming environment where athletes of different backgrounds and experience levels can succeed. Sanctioning the sport would ensure that even more student-athletes across North Carolina have the chance to benefit.

“Boys volleyball gives our students another powerful opportunity to build confidence, friendships, and pride while representing their school.”

— **Wes Berrier** • Asheboro High School, Athletic Director

“

We have new athletes added to our department — students who would otherwise not be involved in extracurriculars at all. A quote from our principal: she noticed a positive atmosphere and improved behavior from students who recently became part of this team. I believe in creating opportunities for students. The valuable life lessons this sport teaches have now been extended to a population of our campus that otherwise may not have been reached.

“The valuable life lessons have now been extended to a unique niche population of our campus that otherwise may not have been reached.”

— **Antonio Covington** • Hoke County High School, Athletic Director

“

I'm not sure why we are debating this sanctioning. Along with girls flag football, boys volleyball is one of the fastest-growing sports in the state. Let's not miss the boat and kick the can down the road. The athletes and coaches have done everything the right way. It is time to open another opportunity to student-athletes.

“They have done everything the right way. It is time.”

— **Greg Liddle** • Concord High School, Athletic Director

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Men's volleyball has impacted our students by allowing them an opportunity to be part of something positive at school. It has allowed students who typically are not involved in other activities to engage in education-based athletics. Any school-sponsored activity that students are doing after school is better than most of the alternatives.

“Men's volleyball has allowed students who typically are not involved in other activities to be involved in education-based athletics.”

— **Ted White** • Lumberton High School, Athletic Director

“

At CCA, boys volleyball has opened the door for young men to participate in a team sport they would otherwise not have pursued. The interest and enthusiasm from our players has been remarkable. It will be a game-changer for several young men at our school.

“High school volleyball may be the greatest sport brought to NC since 11-man football.”

— **Bob Pegram** • Central Carolina Academy, Athletic Director

Boys Volleyball FAQ

This document is based on recommendations from the NC Boys Volleyball Organizers

Q. What equipment is needed to play?

A. NFHS approved volleyball, uniforms, volleyball stand, net

Q. What playing rules will be followed?

A. NFHS volleyball playing rules would be followed.

Q. What are the coaching qualifications?

A. Coaches would maintain current certifications as established by SBOE, NCHSAA, and local policy.

Q. What will the bracket size be for an invitational or state championship?

A. Boys volleyball would follow current NCHSAA bracketing guidelines.

Q. Are state associations allowed to adopt their own rules?

A. Yes. Per NFHS rules, there are some allowances for state associations to adopt their own rules such as but not limited to: best of three sets match, use of textured volleyball, teams remaining on the same bench throughout the match.

Q. Where will match results be entered?

A. Match results would be entered in MaxPreps and DragonFly

Q. How will teams qualify for the playoffs or state championships?

A. Teams would qualify for the playoffs using the current NCHSAA playoff model.

Q. Who will place teams on the playoff bracket?

A. If sanctioned, NCHSAA staff would place teams on playoff bracket.

Q. Who will assign officials for the contest?

A. Assignments for contests would be conducted by the current volleyball regional supervisors.

Q. What is the limitation of games (daily, weekly, season)?

A. The daily, weekly, and season limitations would be set by the NCHSAA Board of Directors.

Q. How will teams be placed in conferences?

A. *Teams would compete within their assigned conferences according to their current placement. Adjustments to conference assignments may be made if a school must be relocated due to the absence of participating teams from other schools within their current conference.*

Q. How long will the season last?

A. *Boys Volleyball would follow the Spring sports season start date and would conclude with the finals being held on Saturday of the week following the outdoor track and field championships.*

Submitted NCHSAA Data via DragonFly for Women’s Flag Football School and Men’s Volleyball Participation Report

Data Verification Methodology

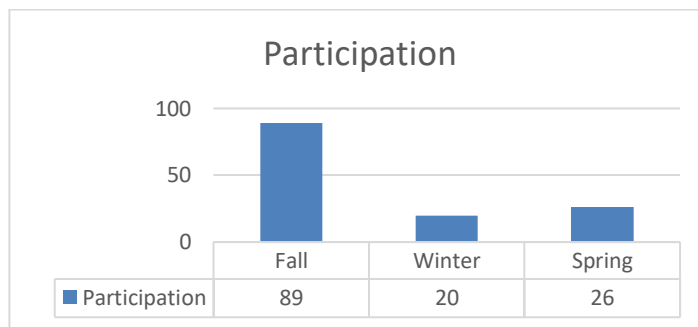
For both flag football and volleyball, participation data were verified, reconciled, and cross-checked across multiple reports to ensure accurate counts. DragonFly eligibility summary data was reviewed and validated against Carolina Panthers records, MaxPreps reports, and school-submitted surveys. This multi-source verification process helped confirm consistency and reliability across all reported figures.

Seasonal participation breakdowns for the 2024–2025 season contained inconsistencies and were excluded from seasonal analysis; however, total team counts for that year are included. Percentage calculations are based on the total number of NCHSAA member schools (442 in 2024–2025; 446 in 2025–2026).

Women’s Flag Football

2024-2025: 117 Teams (26% of 442)

2025-2026: 135 Teams (30% of 446)



The Carolina Panthers’ report included **138** teams.

After reconciliation attempts with the Carolina Panthers data, two schools reported not fielding a team, and one did not respond to repeated requests for information.

Men’s Volleyball

2024-2025: 109 Teams (24% of 442)

2025-2026: 120 Teams (26% of 446)

All teams played in the spring.