

## MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL POSTSEASON VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT PROPOSAL

Formulated by the MSHSAA Volleyball Advisory Committee on Wed., Nov. 19, 2008

**STATUS REPORT (FEB. 20, 2009):** The following proposal was submitted to the MSHSAA Board of Directors on Jan. 28, 2009. The Board viewed and then tabled this proposal until after administrators have talked about it at the state area meetings in January 2010.

**What does that mean?** The postseason tournament will not change next season in 2009. The proposal may take effect for the 2010 season at the earliest. This issue will be brought before the state's administrators to be discussed at area meetings in January 2010. Most likely, then, the proposal will be voted on as part of the 2010 MSHSAA Annual Ballot. This is where the change could actually happen.

**Opinion of the committee:** This is actually a good thing—the committee thought that MSHSAA would have us make concessions or rework this plan before bringing to the membership for discussion or a vote. The Board decided it was a plan worthy of taking to the membership as is. We viewed this development as a positive.

**ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY US, AS COACHES:** So, the next step is for all of us, as coaches, to talk to our athletic directors and principals about voting for the proposal. When we do, though, it's important to keep the big picture in mind. Football is in the midst of a trial postseason format and baseball and basketball are proposing changes, like we are, to their postseason as well. This amounts to a lot of change for administrators to deal with—there will be some administrators that will simply not vote to change anything period. However, most administrators will need convincing—hopefully if we approach things with them that this proposal has elements that are in the best interests of the student-athletes in Missouri, that will have the greatest effect. Please see Dr. Kerwin Urhahn's (MSHSAA executive director) attached article to get his perspective on how to communicate with your administration. Remember, the administrators have read the same article!

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### WHAT IS THE EXACT PROPOSAL?

When the MSHSAA Volleyball Advisory Committee met on Nov. 19, 2008, we were working with the following parameters, dictated by MSHSAA as well as by the survey that the Missouri High School Volleyball Coaches Association administered after the 2008 season:

- The premise was to attempt to get more teams involved in the state series (past districts) and to attempt to get the best teams statewide to the state tournament
- 73% of coaches surveyed statewide would be in favor of taking two teams out of each district
- 69% of coaches surveyed statewide would be in favor of creating an 8 team state tournament
- 65% of coaches surveyed statewide would be in favor of keeping pool play as part of the state tournament
- The number of post-season playing dates could not be increased
- The committee needed to be aware of extra costs of officials, facilities, workers, etc.
- The committee was aware of current travel time issues that have arisen across the state

- The committee was aware that many schools turn down requests by MSHSAA to host sectionals and many officials turn down requests by MSHSAA to officiate sectionals—so to increase those numbers of sites and number of qualified officials may be a hardship
  - MSHSAA is only interested in geography and numbers. There is no interest from MSHSAA in equalizing districts by ability. In other words, schools are placed into districts based on geography alone and so that approximately the same number of teams are in each district.
  - Along those lines, MSHSAA is not interested in seeding the state tournament
  - MSHSAA would not like to eliminate the state third place match
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**CHANGES PROPOSED TO DISTRICTS AND SECTIONALS:**

- Districts would operate the same way as they are now—local control, single elimination, must be completed by Thursday. The only difference is that both the first and second place teams would advance to sectionals.
- Sectionals would still be held the following Saturday. Instead of four sectionals per class, the number of sectionals per class would increase to eight. Each sectional would still have four teams and would be single elimination. There would still be four sectional sites in each class, but each site would host a sectional in the morning and one in the afternoon. (this solves the issue above of trying to get more sites and more officials—the same officials can work both sectionals all day long at the same site)
- The district champion and runner up from each district would be placed into DIFFERENT sectionals (cross bracketed), so they would not play each other again in the sectional round. Also, this way, it would be possible for two teams from the same district to make the state tournament.
- Each sectional would be played the same way as it is now—two semifinals and one final. Except that each of the EIGHT sectional winners would go to state.

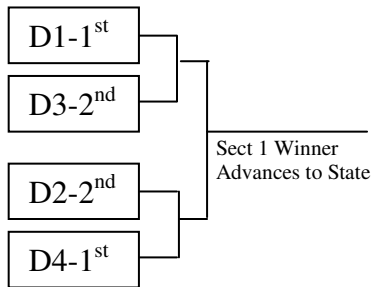
See next page for the visual form.

**MSHSAA DISTRICT/SECTIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT PROPOSAL – FORMULATED NOV. 19, 2008**

Dist 1	Dist 2	Dist 3	Dist 4	Dist 5	Dist 6	Dist 7	Dist 8	Dist 9	Dist10	Dist 11	Dist 12	Dist 13	Dist14	Dist 15	Dist 16
D1-1 <sup>st</sup>	D2-1 <sup>st</sup>	D3-1 <sup>st</sup>	D4-1 <sup>st</sup>	D5-1 <sup>st</sup>	D6-1 <sup>st</sup>	D7-1 <sup>st</sup>	D8-1 <sup>st</sup>	D9-1 <sup>st</sup>	D10-1 <sup>st</sup>	D11-1 <sup>st</sup>	D12-1 <sup>st</sup>	D13-1 <sup>st</sup>	D14-1 <sup>st</sup>	D15-1 <sup>st</sup>	D16-1 <sup>st</sup>
D1-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D2-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D3-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D4-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D5-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D6-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D7-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D8-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D9-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D10-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D11-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D12-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D13-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D14-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D15-2 <sup>nd</sup>	D16-2 <sup>nd</sup>

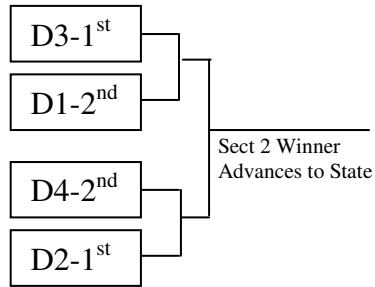
**Sectional 1**

AM



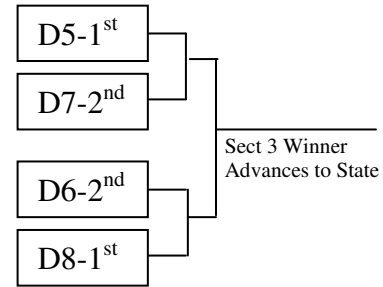
**Sectional 2 (played at same site)**

PM



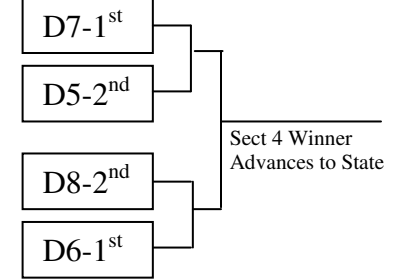
**Sectional 3**

AM



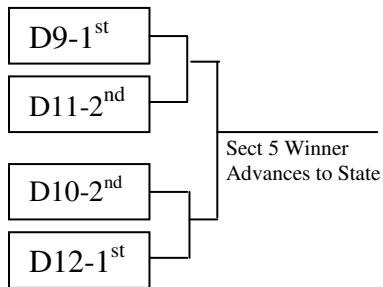
**Sectional 4 (played at same site)**

PM



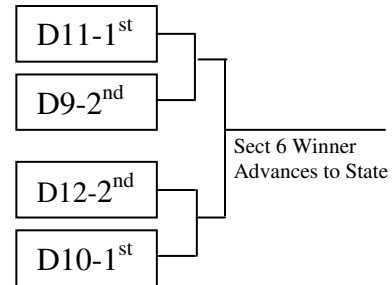
**Sectional 5**

AM



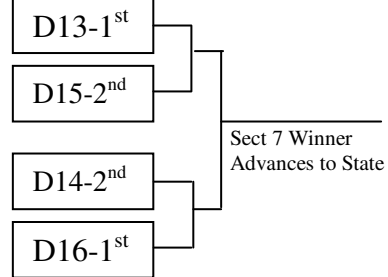
**Sectional 6 (played at same site)**

PM



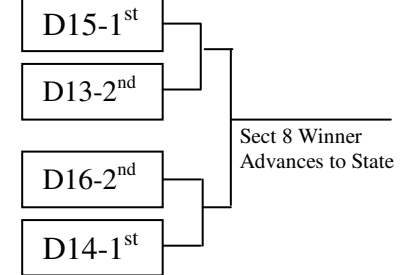
**Sectional 7**

AM



**Sectional 8 (played at same site)**

PM



### **CHANGES PROPOSED TO THE STATE TOURNAMENT:**

- Coaches meeting on Wednesday evening, but no scheduled practices in Kansas City mandated by MSHSAA.
- To keep pool play and have eight teams in each class, one additional day of play is necessary (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) – additional facility cost for MSHSAA
- Two four-team pools would be created geographically in each class – MSHSAA is not interested in seeding the state tournament
- Teams would play the three other teams in their own pool only in pool play
- It would take 12 matches to complete pool play in each class (48 pool play matches total)—pool play would take place Thursday and Friday (exact format to be determined—see visual on next page)
  - o OPTION 1: Split pool play matches for all teams on both Thursday and Friday. This means that all teams would play two matches one day and one match the other day. All team would play Saturday under the current format.
  - o OPTION 2: Have two classes play all of their pool play matches on Thursday and the other two classes play on Friday. Then, all teams would play Saturday under the current format. Teams that play Thursday would sit Friday. The classes that would sit on Friday would rotate each year.
- In order to have third place and championship matches on Saturday as it currently exists, there would not be time for semifinal matches. Therefore, the top team from each pool would play for the championship on Saturday and the second place teams would play for third place on Saturday. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place teams from each pool would not advance to Saturday play.

See next page for the visual form.

**MSHSAA STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT PROPOSAL – FORMULATED NOV. 19, 2008**

Pool 1  
Section 1  
Section 3  
Section 5  
Section 7

Pool 2  
Section 2  
Section 4  
Section 6  
Section 8

**Option 1**

<p><u>Pool Play – Thursday AM</u> <u>(Class 1 &amp; 2)</u> 1 vs 3 2 vs 4 5 vs 7 6 vs 8 1 vs 5 2 vs 6</p>	<p><u>Pool Play – Friday AM</u> <u>(Class 1 &amp; 2)</u> 3 vs 7 4 vs 8 1 vs 7 2 vs 8 3 vs 5 4 vs 6</p>
<p><u>Pool Play – Thursday PM</u> <u>(Class 3 &amp; 4)</u> 1 vs 3 2 vs 4 5 vs 7 6 vs 8 1 vs 5 2 vs 6</p>	<p><u>Pool Play – Friday PM</u> <u>(Class 3 &amp; 4)</u> 3 vs 7 4 vs 8 1 vs 7 2 vs 8 3 vs 5 4 vs 6</p>

*Issues with equity in the number of games played each day by the teams. Non playing teams would have advantage of being able to scout. But no team sits without playing.*

**Option 2**

<p><u>Pool Play Thurs AM</u> <u>(Class 1 &amp; 2)</u> 1 vs 3 2 vs 4 5 vs 7 6 vs 8 1 vs 5 2 vs 6</p>	<p><u>Pool Play Fri AM</u> <u>(Class 3 &amp; 4)</u> 1 vs 3 2 vs 4 5 vs 7 6 vs 8 1 vs 5 2 vs 6</p>
<p><u>Pool Play Thurs PM</u> <u>(Class 1 &amp; 2)</u> 3 vs 7 4 vs 8 1 vs 7 2 vs 8 3 vs 5 4 vs 6</p>	<p><u>Pool Play Fri PM</u> <u>(Class 3 &amp; 4)</u> 3 vs 7 4 vs 8 1 vs 7 2 vs 8 3 vs 5 4 vs 6</p>

*Each year two of the classes would have to sit on Friday.*

\*each year the class that plays AM and PM would rotate in both options

Saturday

Winner of Pool 1 vs Winner of Pool 2 for Championship  
2<sup>nd</sup> of Pool 1 vs 2<sup>nd</sup> of Pool 2 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

## **LAST REMINDER ON TALKING WITH YOUR ADMINISTRATORS:**

It's the **administrators** that actually get to make the final vote on these issues and if they don't hear the rationale from YOU about why this is so important, they will take one look at this and say things like, "why should volleyball take 8 to state when no one else does?" or "it going to take more time and money to host sectionals or to go to state" and they will take 5 seconds to vote NO. Show this document to them and let them know that this has been thought out and has gone through the rinse cycles at MSHSAA.

So, lay the groundwork now and let your administrators know that this issue going to be brought up at the January 2010 area meetings and they need to know how to vote on the issue. **The only way to get this done is if we ALL do our parts to get the actual people who vote to understand our viewpoint as coaches.**

Yes, a year from now seems like a long ways off, but at least let your administrators know where you stand on the issue so that they aren't surprised by what may be coming down the line.