

2026 Bobcat Invitational Volleyball Tournament

Northeastern School Complex

March 27th and March 28th

DATE AND TIME: Junior Varsity – Friday, March 27th starting at 4:00 PM
Varsity – Saturday, March 28th starting at 8:30 AM

OFFICIAL INFO: The Bobcat Invitational Tournament is sponsored and hosted by the Northeastern School District and sanctioned by the P.I.A.A. Only certified referees and umpires will be used. The team listed first will be the home team. **Work teams must include FIVE people: 2 linesmen, a score keeper, a score keeper’s helper (to post the score and ensure accuracy), and a libero tracker.** (If your work crew is not able to properly keep score, you, as coach, will be required to do so). Teams scheduled to work immediately after playing will have just three minutes from the completion of their match to report to the officials.

JUNIOR VARSITY PLAY: Twenty-four teams are entered in the JV tournament. They will be a part of six 4-team pools. Pools A & B will play in the high school’s main gym. Pools C & D will play in the Middle School. Pools E & F will play in the High School Annex. JV pool play is two 21-point sets starting at 4-4 with a 27 point cap.

JV PLAYOFF QUALIFIERS First and second place teams in each pool will be seeded into the playoffs. Pool play ties for all JV playoff spots will be resolved based on:

1. head to head competition between tied teams
2. point differential between tied teams
3. point differential against the pool
4. coin toss

JV PLAYOFF FORMAT Pools A,B,C compete on one side of the playoff bracket and Pools D,E,F compete on the other. The two first place teams with the best record on each side of the bracket (A,B,C and D,E,F) will have a bye in the first round of the play-offs. **All JV playoff matches** will be one 25-point set (no cap). JV Playoff and Courts for each playoff match are on a pdf. file also attached to this e-mail.

VARSITY PLAY: Forty teams are entered in the Varsity Tournament. They will compete in one of Eight 5-team pools. Pools A & B will play in the high school’s main gym; Pools C & D in the Middle School; Pools E & F in the High School Annex; Pools G & H at Spring Forge Intermediate School. All pool play matches will be one 30 point set with no cap. All teams will be seeded into the “Play in Bracket” based on their “place of finish” in pool play (The first round of the play-in will be one 30 point set. The second and third rounds of the Play-in bracket matches will be best two of 3 sets to fifteen points). Teams losing Round 1 will advance to the Bronze playoffs on Courts G & H. Teams losing Rounds 2 & 3 will advance to the Silver playoffs on Courts D, E, & F. Teams winning Rounds 2 and 3 will advance to the Championship Bracket on Courts A, B, & C. Bronze and Silver playoffs are 1 set matches to 25. The Championship Bracket “Round of 16” **and** the Quarter-finals matches will be best 2 of three sets to 15; semi-finals and finals will be best 2 of three sets to 21 (3rd set to 15). **There are NO CAPS in any set of the varsity tournament.**

VARSDITY TIE-BREAKERS FOR POOL PLAY

Tie-Breakers for first through fifth place in varsity pool play will be resolved based on:

1. Head to head competition (wins/loses) against teams in the tie.
2. The tied teams total point differential against the entire pool.
3. The point differential against only the other teams in the tie.
4. The point differential against the best team in the pool that isn't involved in the tie (then against the next best team not in the tie)
5. Coin toss

VARSDITY PLAYOFFS

Play-in Brackets, Playoff Brackets, Courts and work teams for each match are part of the attachments (pdf file) to this e-mail. Once the Play-ins start, the tournament is set up to allow teams that must change gyms time to get where they play next. This means that the **winner**s of some play-in rounds **work** the next match so the loser can travel to their next gym. Please pay attention to this!

GENERAL INFO

Each team will have **10** minutes (5 minutes/team) of warm up time **prior to their first match**. After that, there will be **5** minutes of warm up (2 1/2 minutes/team) between the conclusion of the previous round and the start of the next. Warm up with balls must be confined to the gyms. Please do not allow your teams to use balls in the hallways or cafeterias. **Please bring your own warm-up balls.**

FACILITIES:

Gyms will be open Friday at 3 PM and Saturday at 7:45 AM. Camping areas will be available for all teams. Each team is responsible to remove trash, water bottles etc. from their area. Teams are responsible for their own valuables. There are surveillance/security cameras in all the schools. Remind your players their behavior is being recorded! Please inform your players that the Bobcat Booster Club will have a wide variety of hot and cold foods available for purchase. No food provided by parents or Booster Clubs can be brought into the schools.

TRAINER:

Certified trainers will be available for the benefit of your players prior to and throughout both the Junior Varsity and Varsity tournaments. The training room is located beside the main gym of the high school. Please allow plenty of time prior to the start of your match if a player needs "pre-play" trainer attention.

AWARDS:

Trophies will be given to the Champion and Runner-up in both the Varsity and Junior Varsity Tournaments. Individual awards will be given to players on the Championship teams (There are no awards for winning the Varsity Silver or Bronze Brackets).

SPECTATORS:

Admission for the Tournament benefits the Bobcat Booster Club. Junior Varsity admission is \$10 for adults. Varsity admission is \$10. A two day adult pass is available at a cost of \$15. Admission is \$5 each day for Students. Children under 5 are free. **ADMISSION IS CASH ONLY!**

The entire Northeastern Campus is a smoke free area.

Bobcat Invitational – Varsity

2026 - Varsity Pool Play Pairings

Pools A and B - Main Gym

Court A	Court B
1. Governor Mifflin	1. Mechanicsburg
2. Meadville	2. Northeastern
3. Neshaminy	3. Parkland
4. Eastern	4. McDowell
5. Whitehall	5. Northern York

Pools C and D - Middle School Gym

Court C	Court D
1. Chambersburg	1. Lower Dauphin
2. Hempfield	2. York Suburban
3. Dallastown	3. Warwick
4. Cent. Bucks West	4. Nazareth
5. Northampton	5. Pennsbury

Pools E and F - High School Annex

Court E	Court F
1. Palmyra	1. Red Land
2. Cumberland Valley	2. Central Dauphin
3. Exeter	3. Central York
4. Cent. Bucks East	4. West York
5. Holy Redeemer	5. Southern Lehigh

Pools G and H - Spring Forge Intermediate Gym

Court G	Court H
1. New Oxford	1. Ambridge
2. Emmaus	2. Penridge
3. Saegartown	3. Red Lion
4. Cedar Crest	4. Dover
5. William Tennent	5. Freedom

Round	Time	Playing Teams	Work Team	Officials
1	8:30 AM	1 - 2	4	3, 1
2	ASAP	3 - 4	2	2, 3
3	ASAP	5 - 1	3	1, 2
4	ASAP	2 - 4	5	3, 1
5	ASAP	3 - 5	1	2, 3
6	ASAP	4 - 1	2	1, 2
7	ASAP	5 - 2	3	3, 1
8	ASAP	1 - 3	4	2, 3
9	ASAP	4 - 5	1	1, 2
10	ASAP	2 - 3	5	3, 1

VARSITY PLAY-IN ROUNDS

First Round: One set to 30 points (no caps)

Second and Third Rounds: best 2 of 3 sets to 15 (no caps)

First Round... (One Set to 30 points, no caps; work team: 1st Place Finisher on each court)

The letter refers to the original pool; the number refers to the place of finish in pool play (example: C4 means Pool C's 4th place finisher; E5 is Pool E's 5th place finisher).

Ct A	Ct B	Ct C	Ct D	Ct E	Ct F	Ct G	Ct H	Officials
C4 vs E5	D4 vs H5	A4 vs G5	F4 vs B5	G4 vs D5	B4 vs C5	H4 vs F5	E4 vs A5	2, 3

Second Round... (Best 2 of 3 sets to 15, no caps; WORK TEAMS: 1st round losers on Courts A-G; WORK TEAM on Court H: *winner* of Round 1)

Ct A	Ct B	Ct C	Ct D	Ct E	Ct F	Ct G	Ct H	Officials
A2 vs D3	B2 vs C3	C2 vs B3	D2 vs A3	E2 vs F3	F2 vs G3	G2 vs H3	H2 vs E3	1, 2

Third Round... (Best 2 of 3 sets to 15, no caps; WORK TEAMS: Round 2 losers on Cts. A, D, E, F, & H; WORK TEAM: Round 2 Winners on Cts. B, C, & G)

Ct A	Ct B	Ct C	Ct D	Ct E	Ct F	Ct G	Ct H	Officials
A1-C4/E5	B1-D4/H5	C1-A4/G5	D1-F4/B5	E1-G4/D5	F1-B4/C5	G1-H4/F5	H1-E4/A5	3, 1

Championship Bracket

This bracket will be the 16 winners of the second and third rounds of the Play-In Bracket. Play and work teams as designated.

Silver Bracket

This bracket will be the 16 losers of the second and third rounds of the Play-In Bracket. Play and work teams as designated.

Bronze Bracket

This bracket will be the 8 losers of the first round of the Play in Bracket. Play and work teams as designated.

Bronze Bracket

(All matches 1 - 25 point set, no cap)

	Court G (Spring Forge Intermediate School)	Court H	Officials
RD 1	S vs T (Work: U)	Y vs Z (Work: X)	2, 3
(Work team for all remaining matches: losers of previous matches)			
RD 2	U vs V	W vs X	1, 2
RD 3	S/T vs U/V	W/X vs Y/Z	3, 1

Bronze Finals... on Court H: Play teams: Bronze Semi-winners.

Work: Semi's loser with the least travel distance home.

Officials: H3, G3

Silver Bracket

(All matches 1 - 25 point set, no cap)

	Court D (Middle School Gym)	Court E (H.S. Annex Gym)	Court F (H.S. Annex Gym)	Officials
RD 1	KK vs LL (Work GG)	AA vs BB (Work: CC)	OO vs PP (Work: EE)	2, 3
	(Work team for all remaining matches: losers of previous matches)			
Rd 2	GG vs HH	CC vs DD	EE vs FF	1, 2
Rd 3	II vs JJ	AA/BB vs CC/DD	MM vs NN	3, 1
Rd 4	II/JJ vs KK/LL	EE/FF vs GG/HH	MM/NN vs OO/PP	2, 3

Rd 5 - Semifinals... on Courts E & F

Play teams: Court E: AA//BB/CC/DD vs EE//FF/GG/HH; Court F: II/JJ/KK/LL vs MM/NN/OO/PP

Work: Losers of previous round on Courts E & F **Officials: Ct E:** H2, E1; **Ct. F:** D1, F1

Rd 6 - Finals... on Court F: Winners of the Semis

Work team: semi's loser with least travel distance home

Officials: F1, E1, D1, H2

Championship Bracket

All Matches in Rounds 1 – 4 are the best 2 of three to 15 (no caps)

Semi-finals and Finals are best 2 of three; sets one and two to 21; third set to 15 (no caps)

	Court A (H.S. Main Gym)	Court B (H.S. Main Gym)	Court C (Middle School)	Officials
RD 1	A vs B (work: Silver MM)	K vs L (work: Silver II)	G vs H (work: Silver JJ)	2,3
	(Work team for all remaining matches through the semi-finals: losers of previous matches)			
RD 2	C vs D	E vs F	M vs N	1, 2
RD 3	A/B vs C/D	I vs J	O vs P	3, 1
RD 4	E/F vs G/H	I/J vs K/L	M/N vs O/P	2, 3

RD 5 - Semifinals... on Courts A and B

Play teams: Court A - A/B//CD vs E/F//G/H; Court B - I/J//K/L vs M/N//O/P

A1, SCR; C1, B1

Work Team – Loser of previous round on Courts A & B

RD 6 - Finals...

Play Teams... Winners of Semifinals on the Main Court

Work Team... Officials

B1, SCR, A1, C1