

High School/Middle School Volleyball Officiating - Before you join

The season starts August 8 for high school and September 8 for middle school. HS goes through the end of October and MS goes through the first week of November. Varsity playoffs start the last week of October and run through mid-November. All officials in good standing are eligible to work playoffs including serving as line judges.

To officiate one must become a member of TASO and a local chapter approved by the UIL. The Austin Volleyball Chapter – TASO is your local chapter and we cover a large geographic area as noted on our chapter's home page.

There are two steps to joining the Austin Chapter

1. Visit <http://www.taso.org/news/online-applications-for-new--returning-members> to start the TASO membership application process
2. Submit a completed Austin Chapter application and annual dues of \$30 to the chapter treasurer, Teresa Fierro, at 214 Covalia Dr., Cedar Park, TX 78130.

Orientation sessions for new officials will be scheduled and announced on our website as well as emailed to all who have expressed interest in officiating. Classroom training starts in June and on-court training for new officials goes from May to July. The current classroom training schedule and other relevant information will be posted on our chapter website by early May. All officials are encouraged to check the website often for the most recent information. There are also many training presentations posted and available to review at any time. The more one attends training the better the chapter will be able to match one to the appropriate level of matches.

Once district play starts HS play is typically on Tuesdays/Fridays while MS is normally on Mondays/Thursdays. New officials to volleyball most likely would start with middle school but 9th grade and JV matches in August are possible based on how well they do during training. Most nights matches are scheduled to begin at 5:30.

Varsity tournaments are multi-day events in August (Thursday to Saturday or Friday to Saturday). JV, 9th grade, and MS tournaments are usually single day events on Saturdays and there are tournaments each Saturday of the season. There is never any play on Sundays. Occasionally there will be matches played on Wednesday night.

Assignments for volleyball outside of tournaments are at least two matches. The pay schedule is posted on our www.austinvbrefs.com website but for sub-varsity matches pay is typically \$40 each (\$35 for middle school) plus mileage. At tournaments you typically work 6 to 8 matches with the pay rate tiered according to the level of match. Schools send officials payments by check within a week to 6 weeks after the event.

Tournaments typically start by 8AM. Weeknight matches may start as early as 5PM but typically start around 5:30. We expect officials to be at the gym 30 minutes ahead of match time.

Officials are independent contractors and are responsible for submitting their availability to the chapter assigning secretary. The Austin chapter uses Arbiter scheduling (www.arbitersports.com) and one can enter blocks there but we also require officials to send in a paper form to serve as a backup. Officials specify what days they can't work, where they're leaving from (work or home), what times they can leave on what days, how far they can go, and what schools are closest to them and any they want to block for whatever reason.

TASO Dues for new members are \$35 (payable as part of the online registration). As an incentive to join, the Austin chapter reimburses new members up to \$50 for the equipment/clothing required to officiate after they've worked their first match. To be a member in good standing one must

- complete the application

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- pay the dues
- attend the state meeting (this year in Garland on July 9) or a local rules clinic offered elsewhere in the state (clinic schedule will be posted at www.taso.org in the volleyball section)
- take the online test and pass with a score of 70, and
- attend the chapter meetings.

It is essential to be effective that new members review the chapter calendar and make plans to attend each night of classroom training and at least four on-court training sessions as well as all new member meetings.