

MN BOYS HSVB: SPRING 2020

History: The MN Boys High School Volleyball Association was established in 2018. With the support of Hugh McCutcheon, Walt Weaver, and North Country Region, MN Boys HSVB Association had its inaugural Boys High School Volleyball Season in Spring 2018. There were 22 schools with 38 JV/Varsity Teams and 400+ boys in 2018, and 50 schools with 94 JV/Varsity Teams playing high school volleyball in 2019!

Mission: To create opportunities and support Boys playing volleyball in Minnesota High Schools. Help provide a low-cost league and administrative assistance to relieve the amount of responsibility and functions in the school Athletic Departments.

The ultimate goal is for MSHSL to recognize, support and sanction boys high school volleyball as a MSHSL sport.

GROW THE GAME IN 2020:

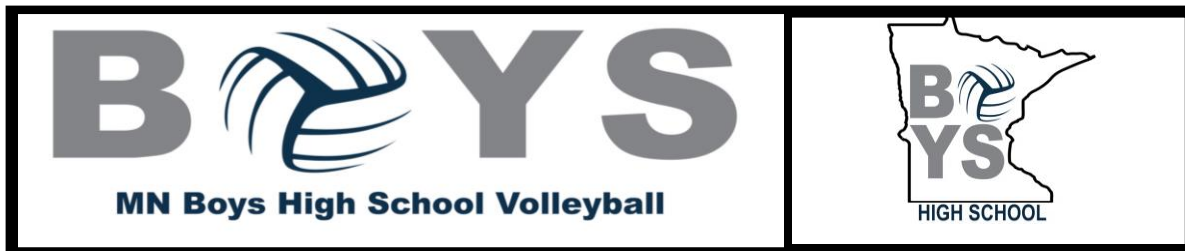
CHECKLIST FOR STARTING A TEAM

1. Find a Team Director/Coach
2. Talk to Your Athletic Director
3. Become a School Recognized Club – (See Russ Reetz, Prior Lake Athletic Director, Testimonial on Page 8 for more details)
4. If not a School-Recognized Club, then Identify an Entity to “Host” the Club
5. Determine Individual Team Cost & Player Dues
6. Host Info Mtg, Open Gym Dates & Recruit 12-15 Boys (minimum)
7. Attend MN Boys HSVB League Info Night
8. Register with Mn Boys HSVB Assn (League) and JVA (Insurance)
9. Find Gym Space, Set Practices, and Order Jerseys

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WHAT'S ALREADY DONE!

The MN Boys High School Volleyball Association eases start-up by streamlining processes and reducing affordability barriers.

Here's what's already set up:

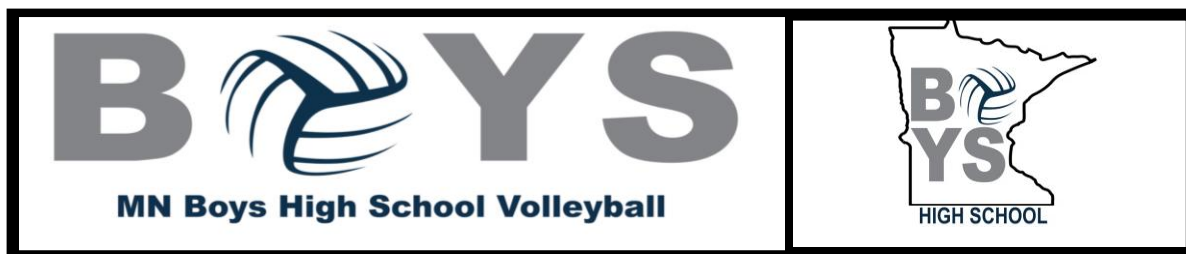
- **MN Boys High School Volleyball Website:** League Standings, Individual Team Website/Communication Capabilities, Coaches Corner with Checklists and Resource Center
- **League Schedule and Officiating:** Regular Play Schedules and Officials Assigned for Each School
- **Team Budget Template:** Use the Line Item Template to figure out YOUR school's needs and estimate YOUR player fee / club team dues
- **Memberships & Insurance:** Affordable Insurance, Registration, APS Training, & Background Checks through JVA
- **TWO Successful Seasons:** There were 22 schools and 39 JV and/or Varsity teams with OVER 400 boys in 2018. There were 50 schools and 94 JV and/or Varsity teams with OVER 800 boys in 2019. This paved the way for a Third Season in 2020 that will be even more streamlined.

FIND EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MN BOYS HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL AT WWW.MNBOYSHIGHSCHOOLVOLLEYBALL.COM

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STARTING A TEAM IN 2020:

SUGGESTED TIMELINE AND COURSE OF ACTION

(DISCLAIMER: All dates/info subject to change)

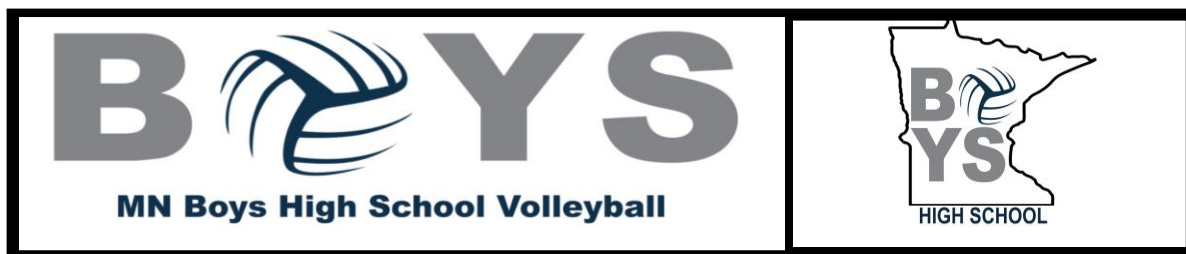
TIMING	TASK	SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION
Aug – Oct 2019	Find a Team Director and/or coach	Could be the same person or 2 different people
	Talk to Your AD, Community Ed, or Park & Rec Department	Create a School Approved Boys Volleyball Club. There can be cost breaks and gym prioritization by being a school approved club as opposed to an association club, but any will work.
	Identify an Entity to Host the Club	This may be the school activities office, an existing Association, a Booster Club, or even a new entity (New entities will need to apply for social club status (SS-4 form) for a Taxpayer ID to open a bank account.)
Sept - Nov 2019	Rally and Promote Boys VB during the Girls' Season!	Get Girls Team INVOLVED and rally boys to give it a try!
	Host an Info Mtg	Have Girls Host Lunch Hour Sign-Ups, Hold After Match Info Night, Host a Homecoming/Powder Buff Fall or Winter Boys In-House Tourney, Set Up Fall/Winter Open Gym Dates, Etc.
	Consider Fundraising Options	Charge minimal admission for a Kick-Off In-House Tourney, Start Team Go Fund Me Site, Etc. What local organizations could sponsor the team...eg Alumni Association, Lions Club, etc.
Oct 20, 2019	Attend MN Boys HSVB League Info Night – REQUIRED ATTENDANCE FOR ANYONE CONSIDERING OR PLANNING TO HAVE A 2020 TEAM – IMPORTANT MSHSL SANCTIONING PROCESS TO BE DISCUSSED	6:30PM – Shakopee HS Community Room - Gather info and ask questions about the 2020 season

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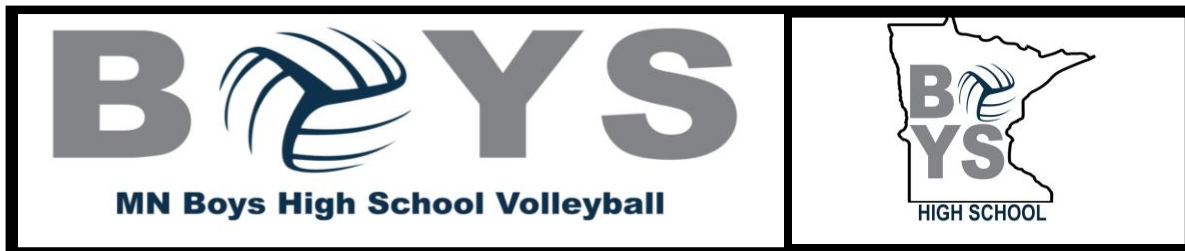


TIMING	TASK	SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION
Dec 1, 2019	Attend MN Boys HSVB Assn 2020 Season Kick-Off Mtg – REQUIRED ATTENDANCE FOR ALL 2020 SCHOOLS	6:00PM Shakopee High School – Final Costs & League Changes Discussed – Early Bird Registration Opens!
Dec – Feb 2019	Host an Info Mtg & Open Gym Dates	Get Girls INVOLVED and rally boys to try it! Have Girls Host Lunch Hour Sign-Ups, After Match Info Night, Powder Buff Fall or Winter Tourney, Fall/Winter Open Gym Dates, Etc.
	Fundraising	Charge minimal admission for a Powder Buff Tourney, Start Team Go Fund Me Site, Etc. What local organizations could sponsor the team...eg Alumni Association, Lions Club, etc.
Feb 7, 2020	FINAL Team Registration Deadline	No Add'l Schools Added after this Date!
	Facility Availability Deadline	ALL schools provide Mn Boys with Spring Competition date host availability (M, W, or Th)
Early-Mid Mar 2020	2019 Schedule Announced	Schedule on Sport Engine Website
Mar 9, 2020	Practice Begins	Suggested Pre-Season Practice Start Date- This may vary for each School depending on Spring Break and personalized schedules. Host team scrimmages with other schools prior to scheduled competitions.
March 30, 2020	First Competitions Begin	
April 11, 2020	Early Bird Tourney – Location TBD	JV & Varsity Tournament
May 2 or 3, 2020	Possible Eastview Tournament	JV & Varsity Tournament
May 9, 2020	Possible Lakeville Tournament	JV & Varsity Tournament
May 10, 2020	Possible Forest Lake Tournament	JV & Varsity Tournament
May 15-17, 2020	2020 State Tournament – Shakopee, MN	Top Varsity Teams Face-Off for 2020 Championship Title

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FAQ'S

1. Who do I contact if I am interested in starting a team?

A: Contact MN Boys HSVB can answer questions.

2. How do I convince my administration to permit boys volleyball?

A: First – talk to the athletic administration about starting a boys volleyball program. Explain all the things that are already in place with insurance, scheduling, background checks, and officials to let them know it will not be more work for them and little to no cost for the school.

Get permission for a team and become a School Approved Club. Find out when you can use gym space and existing PE or girls volleyball equipment. MN Boys HSVB can assist with supportive information or speaking with your AD directly, if needed.

3. What advantage is there to being a School Approved Club?

A: Many schools offer “perks” such as prioritized gym use and reduced fees for gym time to its clubs that have been formally approved by the School. Ask your Activities Department how it works in your school.

4. What is the Team League Fee? What does it cover?

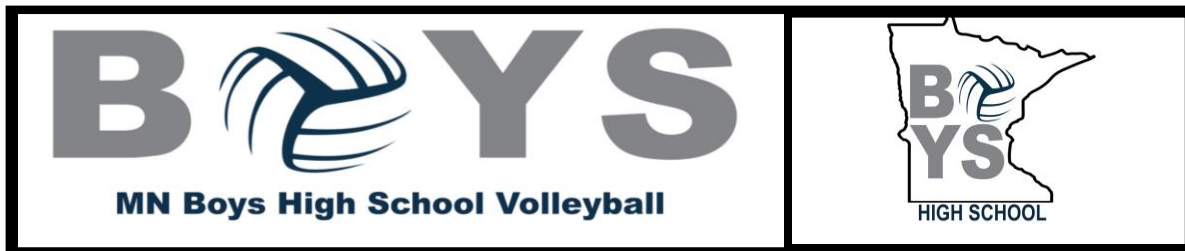
A: The Team League Fee is the cost to run the league. It covers the following:

- Cost of R1 Officials and associated Admin Fees
- Administrative costs to run the league
- Website Platform - SportsEngine
- SportsEngine Page for Every Team
- SportsEngine Scheduling Module
- SportsEngine League Scores & Team Communication
- Team Registration Fee

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5. What is the Player Cost and what does it cover?

A: Individual Player Dues are typically used to cover the expense of uniforms, tournament entry fees, coaches, equipment, etc. EVERY program is different. This is not the league fee. Use the sample budget found in the [Coaches Corner](#) to figure out team cost and divide it by the number of players to find your Player Cost. (A team of 10 players would split the overall Cost 10 ways.)

6. How long and when is the boy's volleyball season?

A: Boys' Volleyball is a spring sport. Pre-Season practice begins early March with the first competition early April and state tournament event late May. You determine your own practice schedule, however, we recommend starting no later than March 11th.

7. How many games and practices will there be?

A: 10-13 Competition Dates (1- 3 of 5 set match per date for JV and Varsity teams), 1-3 Practices/Week, & 1-3 Optional Tournaments

8. How do I schedule matches once I have permission to have a team?

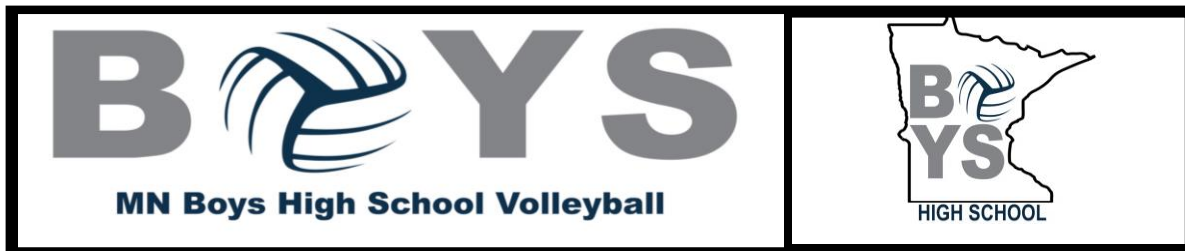
A: Contact MNBoys HSVB to let us know you are committed, pay the team registration fee, and let us know if/when you have the ability to host competitions. We will schedule competitions accordingly.

9. How many schools participated and are there conferences?

A: There were 50 schools and 94 JV and/or Varsity teams with OVER 800 boys in 2019. The League had 7 conferences including one in Northern MN and one in Southern MN.

10. Where can I find additional information?

A: Go to the website, www.mnboyshighschoolvolleyball.com Check out the "Coaches Corner" for the checklist and links to all the processes and forms.



TESTIMONIALS

Hugh McCutcheon, University of MN Women's Volleyball Coach, Former Men's & Women's USA/Olympic Volleyball Coach

"As momentum builds, and our numbers continue to grow, it's important to remember that the female and male versions of our sport help each other immensely. There are very few sports that can say that. Without question, having a boys volleyball team will help your girls team - and vice versa."

Walt Weaver, MN Hall of Fame Coach & MN Boys High School Volleyball Association Director

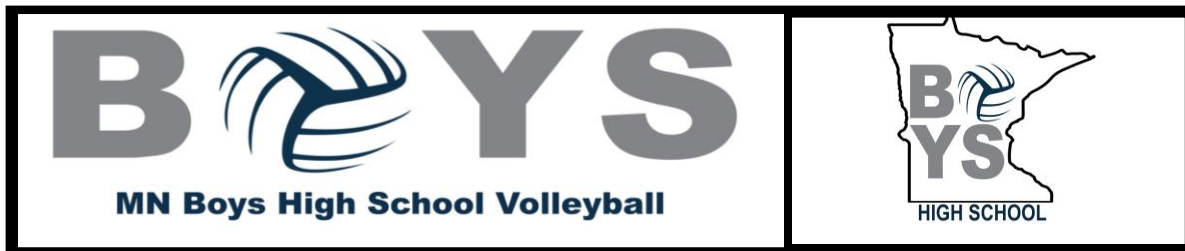
"The first two seasons of Minnesota Boys' high school season were a huge success by any standard and we are now in preparation for another season in Spring of 2020.

I cannot tell you how excited I am by what I saw last season. I was at several matches at several sites and the level of excitement and passion I witnessed was shocking. A highlight was a match between Farmington and Lakeville South at South. The stands were full with fans, the National Anthem played, we had introductions of players and a highly contested match with boisterous fans on both sides. I knew then that nothing would stop this mission now, and that someday I would be sitting at the Xcel watching the Boys High School State Volleyball Championship."

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TESTIMONIALS

Russ Reetz, Prior Lake Athletic Director

“Prior Lake High School added two levels of Boys Volleyball this Spring. Don’t let logistics or facilities be an excuse. This can work for everyone. We chose to practice from 5-7PM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Spring. We did host some Sunday practices as well so practice would not conflict with spring sport practices. We may also try morning practices in the future.

I see three options for ADs that hope to get Boys Volleyball going in their schools. You can request additional staffing from your school board, etc. The fees collected from participants can be adjusted to offset district costs. This is the option I chose at PLHS. We were able to hire two coaches, purchase a uniform shirt and pay league fees from revenue generated from our participation fees.

Another option would be inviting an outside entity (likely a Coaches LLC or Booster Club) to use the facilities and run the program as an independent provider. In essence, the kids would register through a non-profit. The district would provide facilities and the opportunity to earn a varsity letter award.

A third option would be to ask your community education department to administer the program and hire the coach. Each option requires a little bit of work up front for ADs, but once you determine the structure for support and arrange facilities for practices and games, the AD has very little to worry about during the season. The League takes care of scheduling games and assigning officials. I hired a site supervisor to help set up game days and greet the officials and visiting teams.

Our boys had a fantastic experience, improved in the sport tremendously and took pride in starting this sport in Minnesota.”

John Janke, Former Shakopee Athletic Director – Current Shakopee Facilities Director

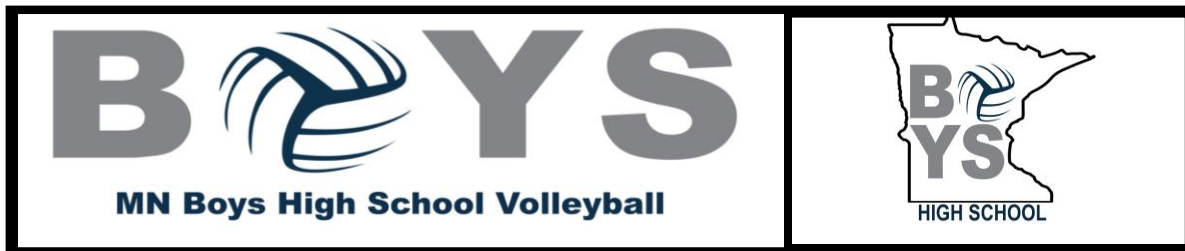
“The spring 2018 Boys Volleyball season was fantastic. With the hard work of many, the season was a huge success providing many participants a new opportunity to play a sport they had only done in Phy Ed. class in the past.

Coaches, parents and kids all worked together to benefit the kids participating and the program as a whole. To see the development from the beginning to the end of the season was quite remarkable. Providing another opportunity for kids to participate is wonderful. I can only hope the kids had as much fun as those around them did watching them compete and develop.”

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Isaac Van Wert, Minneapolis Boys Volleyball Player – 2018 Senior

“I want to thank my coach and the league for all that you taught me about volleyball! This league gave me the opportunity to develop my skills and grow as a volleyball player. I started with very little experience and improved drastically throughout the season. I was able to compete at a higher level and make the Air Force Club Volleyball Team my Freshman year. I wouldn’t have had a shot without my coach or high school team!”

Steve Willingham, Lakeville South Volleyball Coach

“Hey there HS volleyball colleagues -- If you are nervous about the time and effort it will take to begin a boys volleyball program at your high school, you are not alone. I WAS NERVOUS TOO!!

Planning and putting a boys program in place was much easier than I imagined. The heavy lifting has already been done by the Minnesota Boys HS Volleyball Association (MBHSVBA). There’s a simple, turn-key roadmap for setting up and sustaining a new boys volleyball program, and it’s already been built and road tested. It includes ideas for generating interest, liability insurance, recruiting athletes and coaches, a budget that works, and a year-long off-season, pre-season, and in-season calendar that makes sense.

It was not predicted, but we were overwhelmed with interest at our school. We set up a table at lunch on a Tuesday, and left with 100+ names and cell numbers of interested athletes. More than thirty players show up for our open gyms. We were easily able to put together a JV and varsity team. Many people stepped up to help. Our AD was 100% supportive, along with our spring coaches and parents.

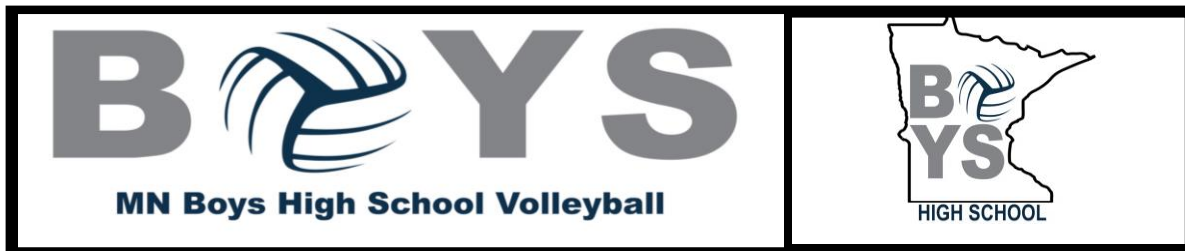
There were challenges, not the least of which was finding time in the gym in our facilities to train and compete. As expected, we did have gym cancellations, last minute conflicts, and bad weather. The good news is none of those were deal breakers. We’ve been nothing but impressed with our athletes, their families, our spring coaches, and our administration in their flexibility in making it happen.

My recommendation is to start thinking about boys volleyball today! What an awesome opportunity to grow the stature and participation level of this great sport. #thisishappening”

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Adam VanOort, Kasson-Mantorville Volleyball Coach

“Being the only out-state team in the league presented some challenges, especially with respect to travel, but by the end of the season everyone involved (coaches, players, parents) was happy we had the opportunity and made the commitment to play. Here are the steps we took to make a Boys Volleyball team a reality:

GETTING THE SCHOOL ON BOARD

I sat down with our Activities director and talked about the idea. The league really made it easy for schools and AD’s by taking care of all of the scheduling and figured out insurance. When I approached our AD, I was able to tell him that all that we needed the school to provide was some gym time for practices and possibly a couple of Monday night competitions. Since the season was played in the spring we weren’t fighting other sports for gym time and it made it simple for our AD to say “yes” in its current form, adding a boys volleyball team doesn’t really add cost or workload for the AD’s or the schools aside from simply scheduling some gym time for practices and competition dates. Schools already have volleyball equipment for their girls’ teams, so it literally cost them nothing.

FINDING PLAYERS

I was a bit concerned we weren’t going to find enough boys willing to play. In Minnesota, and especially out-state MN, volleyball is considered only as a “girls” sport because most people have never seen guys play so I didn’t know if that perception would negatively affect our ability to get enough players or not. We put information on the school announcements and then I set up a sign-up table over lunch in the high school one day. I had about 25 boys sign up to get more information, and in the end 10 boys made the commitment. I am expecting more interest in the coming years as awareness of boys volleyball grows.

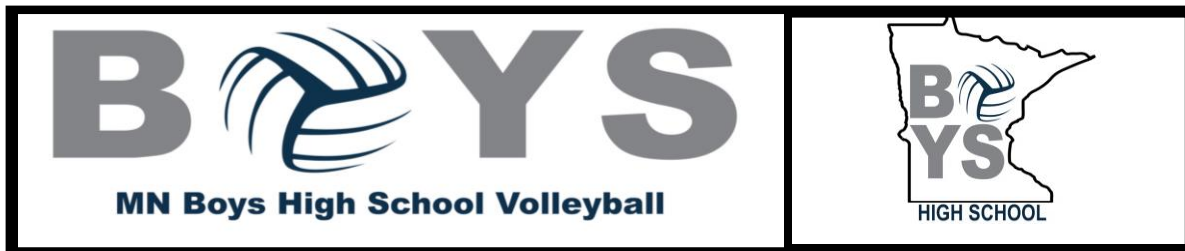
COST AND EXPENSES

The total cost for our kids to play was \$75 each which was quite affordable. All our coaches volunteered their time. The league fee was \$455 per team and most of that went to cover hiring up-refs at each competition. Our school provided free gym time to practice so we had no associated facility costs. The only thing besides the league fee that we had to cover was the cost of uniforms. I was able to get a sponsor to donate 2 sets of t-shirts and then we paid to have them printed with numbers for about \$8ea. I incurred some personal costs with regards to gas and mileage, but fortunately I could afford it and was willing to. I could have easily had each kid pay another \$20 in fees to help cover those costs, but wanted to make it as affordable as possible to remove any potential barriers in getting boys to play.

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FINDING TIMES TO PRACTICE

About half of our boys were involved in other spring sports and activities, so we scheduled practices in the evenings, just like we do for our JO teams. We almost always had a practice on Sunday evenings, and then we tried to get 1 or 2 other practices scheduled for 7-9pm on week nights that wouldn't conflict with other activities. Through April, when there were only games on Monday nights, we were almost always able to practice 3 times a week. Once we got into May and started competing on Mon and Wed nights, then we typically only practiced on Sunday nights and maybe 1 other night a week if we could make it work.

COMPETITIONS AND TRAVEL

Since Kasson-Mantorville was the only out-state team, it meant that we were 75-90 min from every other school we played. Each competition night consisted of a 3-team round-robin. The league accommodated us by allowing us to always ref the first round, then play the last 2 rounds. I would leave at 4:45-5pm with my vehicle containing the boys that were not in other spring sports so that we could get up to the cities in time to ref the first round at 6:30pm. A parent would take a 2nd vehicle which would leave around 5:45-6pm with the rest of the boys so they could arrive in time for us to play at 7:30pm. We'd also play the 8:30pm round and then take off, typically arriving home between 11-11:30pm. We did this on Monday nights in April and on Monday and Wednesday nights in May. To be honest, it was a lot of traveling and I was concerned that the boys would get sick of it by the end of the season. They ended up loving it, and as a result they were honestly pumped and excited for every trip we took.

MY EXPERIENCE

One of my biggest surprises of the entire experience was how much the boys ended up loving volleyball. They absolutely couldn't get enough. That was the most fulfilling part of the entire experience. We did host one competition where Shakopee and Lakeville South came to play us. It was AWESOME! We almost filled our gym and had more fans than a lot of our girls matches. The boys really enjoyed that!

Overall, the experience was fantastic and the every one of the boys was glad that they played. It would be wonderful to be able to expand the number of teams, especially in Southeast Minnesota so that we could have our own conference to cut down on the travel, but I can tell you for a fact that all returning underclassmen will be excited to play again even if we have to travel as much as we did last year. That's how much they loved to play.!"

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