



2026 Elizabeth Seton Volleyball Championships Updates for Coaches

The Elizabeth Seton Volleyball Championships is the 8th grade, invitation-only championship tournament for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. The tournament consists of 68 teams in 3 divisions (Boys Division, Girls Division 1, Girls Division 2) playing 156 matches over 7 tournament days to crown 3 champions. The tournament supports causes including the Waukesha County Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund and the Foundation for Retired Religious.

1. The 2026 Seton tournament will run from Monday October 26th through Friday October 30th for the first 3 rounds, then a week later on Saturday November 7th & Sunday November 8th for the Final Four
 - a. Monday-Friday will be at the Milwaukee Sting Center in Menomonee Falls
 - b. Saturday-Sunday will be held at Catholic Memorial High School in Waukesha
2. The first 3 rounds may cut into week 8 of the league season (Metro boys & some other leagues that play weekdays). We have the approval of the Archdiocese to allow leagues discretion on how to finish their 8th week (either double-headers in advance of the Seton beginning or during the gap before the Seton Final Four).
3. **At no point should any 8th grade league or tournament games take place on nights of the Seton tournament.** *If possible please complete any tournaments for younger grades prior to the Seton to allow those kids to support their classmates, but we understand those dates may be necessary for 4th-7th grade tournaments to be run.*
4. The tournament format is as follows:
 - a. All divisions will have pool play on their first night. Pools will consist of 4 or 5 team groupings, with 2 or 3 teams from each pool advancing to bracket play.
 - b. Once pool play is complete, teams will be seeded into brackets. Brackets are single-elimination, best 3 out of 5 set format (similar to high school varsity) during bracket play.
5. Tournament entry fee is \$250 per team (max roster of 15 players or an additional \$5 per player will be charged). Schools may be issued invitations for multiple teams depending on league results. Starting in 2026, teams that have not paid prior to the tournament conclusion November 8th will be charged a late fee of \$25.
 - a. When registering a team if you receive an invitation, ***please verify the address/payment info with whoever cuts checks at your school!*** Several schools had to re-cut checks that were inaccurately written or sent to the wrong address or were payable to the wrong name
 - b. Each team will receive T-shirts for all players, a copy of the tournament program for the head coach, and every match played one player from each team will be selected for a sportsmanship award
6. **8th Grade Coaches for this fall should all enter their contact information on the Seton website ASAP**
 - a. This DOES NOT guarantee an invite (the tournament is invitation only, but will speed up the process
 - b. This DOES NOT count as a team registration—instructions are sent to coaches once they accept invitations
 - c. This DOES show your team is interested in participating should you receive an invitation (especially if there is a late decline/drop)
7. **Contact your school to make sure the dates of the Seton are kept available for your players** (to avoid concerts, parent meetings, science fairs, etc. over the Seton tournament)

8. Schools must report scores to the league the weekend of games (or immediately after weekday games). Coaches should constantly check the accuracy of both league standings and scores throughout the season—those are the primary source used for invitations and seeding. Please report any issues to your league immediately
 - a. ***Unreported scores/standings will lead to delays in invitations and may hurt your league/school's chances of receiving invitations!***
9. **At the start of the fall season, please ensure you have a copy of your roster with names, jersey numbers, and T-shirt sizes for your players. Also, be sure to take a team picture when you have everyone there.** You need all of that information and the picture when registering a team for the Seton if you receive an invite to play in the tournament
10. Days/times for playing are as follows:
 - a. Boys Division – Monday Oct. 26th Pool Play begins 5:30 pm; Thursday October 29th Second Round 7:30 pm; Friday Oct. 30th Third Round 7:30 pm; Final Four Saturday Nov. 7th 2 pm; Championship/Third Place matches Sunday Nov. 8th at 2 pm
 - b. Girls Division 2 – Tuesday Oct. 27th Pool Play begins 5:30 pm; Second/Third Rounds Thursday Oct. 29th at 5:30 pm (winners play again at 7:30 pm the same night); Final Four Saturday Nov. 7th 4 pm; Championship/Third Place matches Sunday Nov. 8th at 4 pm
 - c. Girls Division 1 – Wednesday Oct. 28th Pool Play begins 5:30 pm; Second/Third Rounds Friday Oct. 30th at 5:30 pm (winners play again at 7:30 pm the same night); Final Four Saturday Nov. 7th 6 pm; Championship/Third Place matches Sunday Nov. 8th at 6 pm
11. ***Please note that The Seton does not take or honor requests to play in a specific division. Several committee members observe multiple games in several conferences throughout the Archdiocese each year to determine where teams should be placed to represent all conferences and their level of play.***
12. School rosters MUST match league roster. No additions/changes may be made for the Seton tournament or teams will forfeit. 7th graders may ONLY play in the Seton if they are on a combined 7th/8th grade team the entire season playing exclusively at an 8th grade level. No “fill-in” players are allowed. Teams comprised of only 7th grade players playing in an 8th grade division are NOT eligible to participate
13. Metro League rules are used with some slight modifications for the Seton
 - a. The textured boys volleyball will NOT be used in the Seton this year, aligning with Metro Conference Rules. The new ball will likely be used in 2027
14. Playing time will follow Archdiocesan rules—teams that fail to play all eligible players will face a forfeit and a losing team may be recalled into the tournament
15. There will be a MANDATORY coach Zoom meeting 1-2 weeks prior to the start of the tournament to discuss rules, logistics, playing time, check-in procedures, etc. **This is tentatively set for Thursday October 15th (please do not host tournament games that night for 8th grader teams).**
16. Please note that starting this fall, The Seton will be going cashless, with all tickets being sold online or with payment via credit card, Apple Pay, etc. at the door. Processing fees will be paid by the purchaser
17. Happy Ad costs will be increasing from \$100 to \$125 (optional program ads for teams) beginning this fall
18. Visit the Seton website for more information (www.theseton.net). There is a FAQ section on the left that answers common questions in advance (question/answers will be updated in the next few months)
19. Additional changes may be made prior to the tournament this fall. Coaches will be notified of any new changes via the Seton website or on the Coaches' Zoom prior to the tournament starting
20. Questions, contact Bill Serb, Tournament Director setondirector@gmail.com