FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PIAA Girls' Volleyball Championships Set for Saint Francis University for First Time

Six classifications to take center stage in the quest for gold for the first time.

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. – The 2026 PIAA Girls' Volleyball Championships will make their debut at Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pa., on Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21. The 53rd Annual PIAA Girls' Volleyball Championships will mark the first time the University has hosted the state championship event.

The championships will be held at DeGol Arena, located within the Maurice Stokes Athletics Center. DeGol Arena serves as the home court for Saint Francis University's volleyball program and features seating for approximately 3,500 spectators. The facility has been a centerpiece of Red Flash athletics for more than five decades, providing an exciting collegiate atmosphere for Pennsylvania's top high school volleyball programs to compete for a state title.

The PIAA first approved the sponsorship of girls' volleyball during its May 1973 Board of Directors meeting, with the inaugural championships taking place on April 27, 1974. Susquehannock High School captured the first state championship with a 2-1 victory over Norwin High School. Norwin quickly established itself as a powerhouse in the sport, appearing in 14 of the first 15 championship matches and winning nine consecutive titles from 1976 through 1984.

Over the years, the PIAA Girls' Volleyball Championships have been contested at several prestigious venues throughout Pennsylvania, including Shippensburg University (1975-1982, 1984, 1987-89, 1993-1995, 1997, 1999-2001, 2003), Penn State University (1974, 1984, 1996, 1998), Indiana University of Pennsylvania (1985-86), Robert Morris University (1990-1992, 2002, 2004), Central York High School (2005-2013), Richland High School (2014-2017) and Cumberland Valley High School (2018-2025). Saint Francis University now becomes the latest institution to join that distinguished list of championship hosts.

The 1974-75 school year marked a significant milestone in the growth of girls' athletics throughout Pennsylvania. The PIAA Board of Directors approved six girls' sports for sponsorship, establishing inaugural championship seasons in golf, cross country, field hockey, volleyball, softball and track and field.

Girls' volleyball initially competed in a single classification, 3A, when the first state championships were held in 1974. As participation and interest in the sport continued to grow,

the PIAA expanded the championship format to two classifications, 2A and 3A, beginning with the 1982 season. The sport continued its rapid growth, expanding to three classifications in 2000 and four classifications in 2016. This fall, girls' volleyball reaches another significant milestone with the introduction of six classifications for the first time, providing additional opportunities for schools across the Commonwealth to compete for a state championship.

The format of championship matches has also evolved throughout the sport's history. From 1974 through 2002, teams needed to win two sets to claim a match. Prior to the 2003 season, the PIAA adopted the best-of-five format used today, requiring teams to win three sets to secure victory.

4A Volleyball Champions:

3 different 4A Champions have been crowned.

8: North Allegheny (2017-24)
1: Garnet Valley (2016), Spring-Ford (2016)

3A Volleyball Champions: *Norwin HS won the most consecutive titles with nine.*

22 different 3A Champions have been crowned.

12: Norwin (1976-1984, 1986-88)
5: Hempfield (2004, 2006, 2010, 2012-13)
4: Baldwin (1989-91, 1995), Allentown Central Catholic (2001, 2007-08, 2016), Pope John Paul II (2022-25)
3: North Allegheny (1992-94), Parkland (2011, 2014-15)
2: Villa Maria Academy (1996, 2002), Susquehannock (1974, 1999),
1: York Suburban (1975), Plum (1984), Cambria Heights (1985), Mt. Lebanon (1997, 2000), Greensburg-Salem (1998), Conestoga Valley (2003), Pine-Richland (2005), Bishop Shanahan (2009), Knoch (2017), West York (2018), Palmyra (2019), Bethlehem Catholic (2020), Spring Grove (2021)

2A Volleyball Champions: *Merion Mercy HS won the most consecutive titles with four.*

20 different 2A Champions have been crowned.

6: Farrell (1982, 1987, 1989, 1993-94, 1998), Richland (1983-84, 1986, 1996, 1999-00)
5: Merion Mercy (2001, 2007-10)
4: Maplewood (1985, 1992, 1995, 2005)
3: Elderton (1988, 1990-91)
2: Brandywine Heights (2002, 2011), Freeport (2017, 2022), North Catholic (2019, 2021), Trinity (3) (2020, 2024)
1: Shannock Valley (1997), Huntingdon (2003), Hopewell (2004), West Allegheny (2006), Fort LeBoeuf (2012), Delone Catholic (2013), Bethlehem Catholic (2014), Berks Catholic (2015), Corry (2016), Bald Eagle (2018), Avonworth (2025)

1A Volleyball Champions: *Four schools have won back-to-back titles.*

13 different 1A Champions have been crowned.

4: Northern Cambria (2005, 2009, 2018-19)
3: Clarion Area (2012, 2020-21), Greensburg Central Catholic (2014, 2016, 2024), Maplewood (2017, 2022, 2025)
2: Marian Catholic (2003, 2013), Reading Central Catholic (2006-07), Holy Name (2008, 2010), Farrell (2001-02),
1: Conneaut Lake (2000), Cochranton (2004), Linesville (2011), Bishop Canevin (2015), Elk County Catholic (2023)

Links to Brackets

1A Bracket 2A Bracket 3A Bracket 4A Bracket 5A Bracket 6A Bracket

All media members are asked to familiarize yourself with the PIAA Handbook, Section II Policy and Procedures, pages 97-102. The championship schedule can be found here and a full list of any previous championship results.

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Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association
Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.