



HEARTS Volleyball Information

What does HEARTS sports offer?

We offer Christ-centered sports programs for Christian home-school students. We are members of the Lake Effect Conference (LEC) as well as the Ohio Christian School Athletic Association (OCSAA). HEARTS sports teams are one way we challenge and encourage homeschool students to honor God in all things, and to grow in their walk with Jesus through athletics. HEARTS volleyball program has a long history of successful competition and league championships, including a five-time ACSI or OCSAA state championship, and a two-time NACA national championship. As an ACSI member school, HEARTS athletes are eligible for the ACSI Distinguished Student award.

When does the season start and end?

- Official practices begin in August and end in October
- There are optional conditioning opportunities and summer leagues
- The first scrimmage is typically in August and the varsity season ends with the National Association of Christian Athletics (NACA) tournament in Dayton, TN, at the end of October
- There will be a season kick-off meeting at the start of the season and a fall banquet in November, which includes all fall sports

Where are the practices and games?

The practices and home games have been at Ohio Nets in Parma and All Pro in Lorain County. The away games are in the greater Cleveland area.

How much will it cost?

For HEARTS members, cost typically run \$100 per student for 5th grade practice team, \$350 for middle school and \$580 for the JV and Varsity team, plus the cost of uniforms. Fees depend on the number of players. These fees don't include tournament costs. This past year the JV and Varsity team paid \$95 for the Mid-West Tournament in Indiana, varsity paid \$50 for the OCSAA tournament and \$375 for the five-day NACA Tournament. As always, we attempt to keep costs down and raise needed funds in other ways through parent initiated fundraising activities. You must be a HEARTS member to participate in our sports programs. Membership options include a basic membership (\$250), which covers all sports, ACSI, social and testing for a school year, or full membership which includes Friday classes and access to all HEARTS programs.

What teams are available and how many participate?

The available teams depend on the number of interested families. We typically have a girls Middle School team, a Junior Varsity and a Varsity team. Your child will participate in all practices, but there is no guarantee she will play in the games.

How can I help?

Each family is expected to help by signing up for ministry assistant positions (MAP). There will be a sign-up at the start of the season and everyone is required to help. Parents take turns working admission and concessions at each home game. Additional responsibilities include coordinating fundraisers, coordinating Hearts lunches and bake sales, coordinating senior night, taking team photos, keeping statistics, ordering team uniforms, line judging, and tournament coordinator. As you can see, there is something for everyone.

Additionally, there will be fundraising and/or booster activities throughout the year. One typical fundraising event is Friday lunches and bake sales during HEARTS classes, and concessions at volleyball events. Each family provides baked goods for the bake sale and the team members work the sale. At least one adult will oversee the event and handle the money. Most lunches and concessions are purchased and resold for a modest profit at HEARTS classes, but sometimes the team will prepare the food with each family contributing and/or receive donations from third-parties, for an even greater profit. Team moms and team members serve the lunch. Other past fundraisers include working at Cedar Point, car washes, Schwan's food sales, flower bulb sales, and volleyball clinics. Parents are encouraged to develop fundraising efforts for HEARTS programming. Additional fundraising activities will be determined by the coordinator, with team families helping as needed.

What should I do if I have interest in joining the volleyball team?

- Send an e-mail to the HEARTS Athletic Director (athletics@heartsforjesuschrist.org)
- If you are not a member of HEARTS, you will need to complete the HEARTS membership process. Begin at HEARTS web page: <http://www.heartsforjesuschrist.org/> On the left under *Helpful Links*, select *Information Request*. Fill out this form and submit. Someone from HEARTS will contact you.
- There will be a \$50 non-refundable deposit for team members. It can only be refunded if the single sport of interest to a sport-only family does not go forward due to inadequate sign-ups to form a team.
- Once you have notified us, look for e-mails and other announcements that will get you ready for the season.
- There will be forms to complete, one of which requires a current physical. Your child will not be eligible to participate until all the forms have been received.