

Listed below are the top rated teams that competed in the 2017-2018 Great Northwest season. We list 32 teams each for grades 6, 7 and 8 for purposes of determining who will be invited to the League Championship Tournament (LCT). These ratings are a by-product of the power rating system. Our ratings work on a formula basis, much like college basketball's RPI or college football's Bowl Coalition rating system. You will note that most teams are rated behind one or more teams they defeated the previous season and, conversely, rated ahead of one or more teams to which they lost during the course of the season. It is consistency during the season against strong competition that determines the final ratings.

The ratings formula awards teams points for defeating A or B+ teams and takes points away for losing to teams rated B or lower. That is why it is virtually impossible for a team to be ranked in the Top 32 that does not regularly play A or B+ teams. The number of meets won -- or overall record -- is relevant only if achieved against strong competition. If you coach a team that we rated "B" and you want the opportunity to move up in the rankings because you think your team can compete at that level, consider registering as a "B+" team for the 2017-2018 season. On a related issue, Wisconsin-based teams that are invited to the Wisconsin State Invitational Championship Tournament, but decline, miss an opportunity to show that they can compete at the highest level and therefore the opportunity to move up in the rankings.

Note also Paragraph B-11 in League rules: "Teams that fail to play at least three meets during the 2017-2018 season, or who declined to play in the most recent LCT and offer no legitimate excuse for doing so, will not be included in this season's year-end rankings of Top 32 teams at each grade level." There are at least one or two teams at each grade level that would otherwise have been ranked below, but are not, because of Rule B-11. We have, however, made exceptions for teams that played in at least two strong meets last season and have made a more significant commitment to the League for the 2018-2019 season.

Teams that dropped in the rankings from the season before shouldn't necessarily feel that they have regressed. At each grade level, we added several teams for the 2017-2018 season. Many of these teams were rated at the B+ level or higher, making it more difficult to make the Top 32. Also, since one or more teams at each grade level decline their invitation to attend the LCT because of conflicts, some teams not listed in this original Top 32 ranking will likely be included in the final LCT field at most grade levels.

<u>9th Grade Girls</u> <u>(Last Season's 8th Grade)</u>	<u>8th Grade Girls</u> <u>(Last Season's 7th Grade)</u>	<u>7th Grade Girls</u> <u>(Last Season's 6th Grade)</u>	<u>6th Grade Girls</u> <u>(Last Season's 5th Grade)</u>
1. Prairie du Chien	1. Wausau West	1. Menomonie Maroon	1. Fall Creek
2. Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln	2. Eau Claire Eagles	2. Eau Claire Volunteers Blue	2. Poynette
3. Bangor	3. Lakeland	3. Chippewa Falls MAXX	3. Assumption
4. Holmen Hurricanes	4. Stevens Point	4. Phillips	4. Elk Mound
5. Onalaska Suns	5. Hudson White	5. River Falls Gold	5. Lake City
6. Rhinelander	6. Blair-Taylor	6. Onalaska Suns	6. West Salem
7. Stevens Point Red	7. Ladysmith	7. Esko	7. Holmen
8. Amherst	8. Altoona	8. River Falls Blue	8. La Crosse Central Red
9. Esko	9. Iola-Scandinavia	9. Mondovi	9. Lakeland
10. Medford Area White	10. Prairie du Chien	10. Poynette	10. Baldwin-Woodville
11. Lakeland	11. Bangor	11. Altoona	11. Hudson White
12. La Crosse Logan	12. Westby	12. Cochrane-Fountain City	12. Proctor
13. Eleva-Strum	13. Osseo-Fairchild Orange	13. Eau Claire Eagles Purple	13. Onalaska Suns
14. West Salem	14. Holmen Maroon	14. Stevens Point Black	14. Eau Claire Eagles White
15. Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau Red	15. La Crosse Central Red	15. Colfax	15. Durand
16. Cochrane-Fountain City	16. Menomonie Maroon	16. Sparta	16. Mosinee
17. Osseo-Fairchild	17. Prairie Farm	17. Hudson White	17. Marshfield Black
18. Crandon	18. Hermantown	18. Aquinas	18. Mondovi
19. Wisconsin Dells	19. Esko	19. Bangor	19. Melrose-Mindoro
20. Baldwin-Woodville	20. Siren	20. Superior	20. Menomonie Maroon
21. Flambeau	21. Saint Croix Falls	21. Chippewa Falls Cardinal Flight	21. Red Wing
22. Menomonie Maroon	22. Auburndale	22. Northland Pines	22. Aquinas
23. Colfax	23. Tomah	23. Merrill	23. North Branch
24. Durand	24. Onalaska Suns	24. Turtle Lake	24. Wausau West
25. Fall Creek	25. Northwestern	25. Marshfield	25. Esko
26. Neillsville	26. Stratford	26. Assumption	26. Whitehall
27. D. C. Everest	27. Wittenberg-Birnamwood	27. Ellsworth Grey	27. Osseo-Fairchild
28. Goodhue	28. Prescott Black	28. Fall Creek	28. New Lisbon
29. Sparta	29. Superior	29. Holmen Maroon	29. Sparta
30. Rice Lake	30. Turtle Lake	30. Elk Mound	30. Eau Claire Volunteers Blue
31. Ladysmith	31. Solon Springs	31. Wausau East	31. Colfax
32. Eau Claire Volunteers Blue	32. Fall Creek	32. La Crosse Logan Red	32. Prescott Black

Listed below are the top rated teams that competed in the 2017-2018 Great Northwest season. We list 32 teams each for grades 6, 7 and 8 for purposes of determining who will be invited to the League Championship Tournament (LCT). These ratings are a by-product of the power rating system. Our ratings work on a formula basis, much like college basketball's RPI or college football's Bowl Coalition rating system. You will note that most teams are rated behind one or more teams they defeated the previous season and, conversely, rated ahead of one or more teams to which they lost during the course of the season. It is consistency during the season against strong competition that determines the final ratings.

The ratings formula awards teams points for defeating A or B+ teams and takes points away for losing to teams rated B or lower. That is why it is virtually impossible for a team to be ranked in the Top 32 that does not regularly play A or B+ teams. The number of meets won -- or overall record -- is relevant only if achieved against strong competition. If you coach a team that we rated "B" and you want the opportunity to move up in the rankings because you think your team can compete at that level, consider registering as a "B+" team for the 2018-2019 season. On a related issue, Wisconsin-based teams that are invited to the Wisconsin State Invitational Championship Tournament, but decline, miss an opportunity to show that they can compete at the highest level and therefore the opportunity to move up in the rankings.

Note also Paragraph B-11 in League rules: "Teams that fail to play at least three meets during the 2017-2018 season, or who declined to play in the most recent LCT and offer no legitimate excuse for doing so, will not be included in this season's year-end rankings of Top 32 teams at each grade level." There are at least one or two teams at each grade level that would otherwise have been ranked below, but are not, because of Rule B-11. We have, however, made exceptions for teams that played in at least two strong meets last season and have made a more significant commitment to the League for the 2018-2019 season.

Teams that dropped in the rankings from the season before shouldn't necessarily feel that they have regressed. At each grade level, we added several teams for the 2017-2018 season. Many of these teams were rated at the B+ level or higher, making it more difficult to make the Top 32. Also, since one or more teams at each grade level decline their invitation to attend the LCT because of conflicts, some teams not listed in this original Top 32 ranking will likely be included in the final LCT field at most grade levels.

<u>9th Grade Boys</u> <u>(Last Season's 8th Grade)</u>	<u>8th Grade Boys</u> <u>(Last Season's 7th Grade)</u>	<u>7th Grade Boys</u> <u>(Last Season's 6th Grade)</u>	<u>6th Grade Boys</u> <u>(Last Season's 5th Grade)</u>
1. Stevens Point Red	1. West Salem Black	1. Stillwater Red	1. Onalaska Royals
2. Marshall	2. Eau Claire Eagles Purple	2. Onalaska Royals	2. Stevens Point Red
3. La Crosse Central Red	3. Northland Pines	3. Prescott Black	3. Holmen Vikings
4. Menomonie Gold	4. Bangor	4. Esko	4. West Salem Orange
5. Eau Claire Huskies Blue	5. Newman Catholic White	5. Aquinas	5. Luther
6. Hudson White	6. La Crosse Central Red	6. Stevens Point Red	6. La Crosse Central Red
7. Superior White	7. Onalaska Royals	7. Spring Grove	7. Hudson Black
8. New Richmond	8. D. C. Everest Green	8. Cameron	8. Elk Mound
9. Plainview-Elgin-Millville	9. Stevens Point	9. Gale-Ettrick Trempealeau	9. Cochrane-Fountain City
10. West Salem	10. Medford Area	10. Hudson White	10. La Crescent Green
11. Wisconsin Dells	11. Plainview-Elgin-Millville	11. Mosinee	11. Esko
12. D. C. Everest Green	12. Black River Falls	12. Edgar	12. Stillwater Red
13. Durand	13. Marshfield Black	13. Marshfield Black	13. Marshfield White
14. Clear Lake	14. Hudson White	14. La Crosse Logan Red	14. Eau Claire Eagles Purple
15. Stratford	15. Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln White	15. Holmen Vikings	15. Hudson Silver
16. Aquinas Blue	16. Northwestern	16. Elk Mound Black	16. Wausau West Navy
17. Eau Claire Eagles Purple	17. New Richmond Orange	17. Merrill	17. Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln Red
18. La Crosse Logan Red	18. Esko	18. Tomah	18. New Richmond Orange
19. Onalaska Royals	19. Eau Claire Thunder	19. La Crosse Central Red	19. Holmen Maroon
20. Saint Croix Central Black	20. Eau Claire Huskies Blue	20. West Salem Black	20. Sparta Red
21. Altoona White	21. Holmen Vikings	21. Eau Claire Eagles Purple	21. Rice Lake
22. Prairie du Chien	22. Chippewa Falls Cardinal Hoops Red	22. Rhinelander	22. Altoona Black
23. Tomah	23. Unity	23. Fall Creek	23. Eau Claire Kings
24. Turtle Lake	24. Stratford	24. Columbus Catholic Navy	24. Edgar
25. Cloquet	25. Amherst	25. Chippewa Falls Cardinal Hoops Red	25. Northland Pines
26. Bangor	26. Aquinas	26. Bloomer	26. Cloquet
27. Northwestern Black	27. Bruce	27. Eau Claire Huskies Blue	27. Northwestern
28. River Falls Blue	28. Menomonie Maroon	28. Hermantown	28. Ladysmith
29. Mosinee	29. Mondovi-Gilmanston	29. Medford Area Red	29. Menomonie Maroon
30. Marathon	30. Rice Lake Gold	30. Black River Falls	30. Chippewa Falls MAXX
31. Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln Bucks	31. Luther Gold	31. Altoona Black	31. D. C. Everest Green
32. Wausau West Navy	32. Hermantown	32. Whitehall	32. St. Stanislaus