

# NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter #2

Sue Mailhot

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As the chairman of the Nebraska High School Officials Association (NHSOA), I would like to share information and some insight about volleyball officiating. I apologize if you find this information intrusive or if you are not interested. I work closely with Jennifer Schwartz, the volleyball director of the NSAA to gather this information and develop interpretations. I applaud those of you who take this information and use it to better yourself as a referee.

We are about halfway through the season and I hope your season has gone well. I know there are some nights during this first part of the season where it seems everyone is working and we still need more referees on certain nights. So keep training new referees in your area.

## **VARSITY SCHEDULE**

Don't forget to **enter your VARSITY schedule on the NSAA website**. That is the only way your matches are **counted** for your certification. Enter your schedule as soon as possible. The deadline to register to officiate districts and state championships is October 1. All levels of registered officials are eligible to work district contests. Only certified officials are eligible for state consideration. Registration is done on your NSAA page.

## **NEW RULES**

How has using the new rules been for you? I am not hearing about too many cards given for unnecessary delay, but I do hear occasionally that someone has used the new UD in situations where previously you would not have given a team delay. We want to remember that giving a card for unnecessary delay should not be given if the action does not significantly delay the set. And the administration of the card should not delay the set further. Try to remember that if you did not give unnecessary delay for the same situation last year, you should probably not give one this year. It is also important to remember that the second referee may request the UD card, but the card must be displayed and given by the first referee.

## **OTHER ITEMS TO NOTE**

### **1. Coaches Standing**

The head coach may stand in the libero replacement zone at least 6 feet from the sideline to coach. If a team member on the bench is assessed an unsportsmanlike sanction, the privilege to stand is lost for the match.

### **2. Uniform**

We've been contacted numerous times about officials giving incorrect information to coaches and teams about their uniforms. If a team has a question about the legality of their uniforms for next year, it is advisable to have them contact Jennifer Schwartz at the NSAA. In addition, you must know exactly what the new rule says and the interpretations for next year. You can view the powerpoint posted on the NSAA website under the Volleyball tab.

- The key to the new rule for NEXT YEAR is: either the Libero or the teammates must be in a solid colored uniform (or both the Libero and the team may be in solid colors). Again, I repeat, if one uniform has multiple colors, the other uniform must be solid colored (per the rules).

- The team uniforms and the Libero uniform MUST contrast. Contrast can be simply understood by thinking ‘can I take a swatch of that opposite uniform and use it to form a number on the other uniform? Would you be able to see the number without using an outline? And vice versa?’
- Example: If one uniform is orange with black and white accent blocks, could I use a solid colored pink libero uniform? ‘Could I put a pink number on the orange shirt and could I see it? Or could I put an orange number on the pink shirt and could I see it? Probably not. What about a dark gray number on a maroon shirt?’
- Even though the solid colored uniform rule is not in effect this year, there still are specific rules about what the libero can wear. Rule 4.2.2 (pg 17) states:

*The libero shall wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other member of the team. The primary color of the libero’s uniform top must be different from any color that appears on more than 25 percent of the body of teammates’ uniforms.*

All of this means that if a uniform is black with a white front panel and a white back panel, the Libero CANNOT wear a jersey that is in opposite colors (white jersey with black front panel and black back panel). I repeat, Teams cannot wear the same jersey in opposite colors. Most teams are compliant with this rule, but some teams are still trying to use an old jersey until you tell them they cannot. We’ve heard from coaches who say they will continue to use these jerseys until they are told not to.

### **3. CORRECT PROCEDURES**

A coach I’ve known for a number of years sent me a message recently asking about a procedure the officials made them do during a match. The coach wanted to know what the correct procedure for a specific action during the match and of course, made the comment that ‘we’ve not done this procedure for the past 5 matches’. The coach tried to say that the referees were being overzealous in making them follow a procedure that no one else had commented about for the entire season.

Part of my response to the coach was:

Coach, I’m sorry, but the referees were correct. The only thing I can say about your previous 5 matches is that the referees you had did not want to 'make waves' and make you complete the correct procedure. As referees, we hear this all the time from coaches; 'but the referees last night did not make us do that'. I've found that over the years referees who insist that a team/coach follows a certain rule/procedure are usually correct. The refs who don't make you follow all the rules are the ones that cause the rest of us (and you) the problems.

I got a very nice return note with an understanding that was probably a good analogy and the team would now make the effort to follow that procedure. So it is very important that as referees we follow what is listed in the rulebook and officials manual.

### **CLARIFICATIONS**

#### **1. Where do line judges stand during timeouts?**

There is a rumor floating about that ‘someone was told at one of the pre-season clinics that the line judges were to stand at the middle of the end line during timeouts’. That is INCORRECT. That procedure has not changed and on page 26 of the rulebook, 5.9.2c it states: . . .Line Judges shall: Stand at the intersection of the attack line and sideline on their respective side of the court, nearest the first referee during timeouts. . . . There is a suggested protocol and diagram on page 127 of the casebook/officials manual.

## 2. Legal Game Ball

There are some game balls being used by schools that do not seem to be like other game balls. The ball has a cover that has a 'different' feel. The description on the ball states: microfiber . . . Look for the authenticating mark as described on page 14 of the rulebook when determining if a game ball is legal or not.

## 3. Referee Signal Sequence for Net Faults (pg 74 Casebook)

- If a net fault is whistled by the second referee, the second referee indicates net fault by stepping to the offending team's side of the net, maintains position back from the court, extends the arm with open hand, fingers together and palm towards net on the offending teams' side of the net, without touching the net and indicate the number of the player at fault.
- If a net fault is whistled by the second referee, the first referee (if in agreement) indicates which team wins the point, then indicates the number of the player at fault.
- This is one procedure that we need to practice, practice, practice.
- And first referee, please remember to let your partner do their principal job which is calling nets and centerline. It does not make you a better referee (or the match go better) if the R1 always make the net call.

## 4. Comments about some questions on the part 2 test

- There were some poorly worded questions as well as some poorly worded answers on the part 2 test. If you feel there was a question that did not have a good answer and it might have affected your passing/failing score, contact Jennifer. If your incorrect answer did not affect your score, just mark it up to experience and move on.
- One particular question that did not seem to have a good answer was: 'Which of the following is a correct procedure for a substitution(s) during a time-out?' The answers listed were:
  - A. Substitutes from the same team must be reported at the same time.
  - B. The second referee reports the number of the players involved to the scorer.
  - C. Player(s) shall enter the set at the end of the time-out without following normal exchange procedures.
  - D. All are correct procedures for a substitution during a time-out.

Answer D was supposed to say: NONE are correct procedures for a substitution during a time-out. (which then was the correct answer) Most of those procedures are how regular subs are conducted, but are not used during a timeout because the rule changed to not allow subs during timeouts.

So again, refer to the first paragraph in this section, 'if your incorrect answer did not affect your score, don't worry about it.' But if you feel your score could change from failing to passing, contact Jennifer at the NSAA office.

## OFFICIALS RESPONSIBILITIES

I cannot say it enough times - officials are responsible for ensuring the rules in the rulebook are enforced. Officials are not responsible for warm-ups or what teams do during warm-ups. You are not responsible for the start time of a match. If the school says, the match will start at XXX time, you are responsible to do the captains meeting at a time earlier enough to ensure the warm-ups as well as any introductions, national anthem, etc are completed to start the stated time. If you are doing more than one match at the school, ask the school administrator if they want to start early or start at the scheduled time. The school administrator is responsible for

what happens at their school. IF IT'S NOT IN THE RULEBOOK, YOU DO NOT HAVE AUTHORITY (unless the school administration gives you authorization).

As our society becomes more litigious and concerned about sexual harassment and sexual predators, we, as officials must be more and more mindful of NOT TOUCHING players. You are an adult in position of authority and it IS NOT ACCEPTABLE for you to touch a minor. I don't care if you think it is an innocent act, someday a spectator or a parent, might not think the same. The National Federation of High Schools has not yet mandated to the state associations regarding background screenings for officials. But many states have implemented that requirement. Background screenings for officials (as well as coaches) are in place for many sports outside the school setting. And it is my feeling that it will not be too long before it is instituted in high school sports. So maintain your professional comportment and if you need to explain something to a player, do it without touching them. Players are not your friends, but if you know them and want to say 'hi', you do it without touching them.

### **LINE JUDGES for STATE VB**

If you are interested in being a line judge at the Nebraska State HS Volleyball Championships, click on this link

<http://omnevbforms.weebly.com/state-high-school-line-judge-reply-form.html>

or on the link on my website (www.omnevb.net)

\*\*\*Hastings College is in need of line judges this Saturday (10-3) 2:30/4:00. \$20 - JV/\$40-V If interested contact **Matt Buttermore mbuttermore@hastings.edu**