

NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter #1

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For the 2015 season, there are currently 192 registered NHSOA volleyball members (compared to 164 last year). 110 referees attended one of the 7 clinics that were held across the state (compared to 83 in 2014). I want to thank all of those who took the time to attend. I hope everyone learned something new at the clinics.

RESPONSIBILITIES of an NSAA REFEREE

In the NFHS Officials Manual (part of the casebook), starting on page 55 is the Philosophy and Ethics and Requirements of being a volleyball official. The Requirements section explains the importance of adhering to the licensing and certifications procedures of the state association. All requirements for a volleyball official in Nebraska are listed in the NSAA Officials Manual. This manual can be found on the NSAA website under the Officials section. A paper copy used to be included in your pre-season packet, but now you must print your own copy. A couple of items to note in the early part of the season:

1. Closed book test (Part 2)

- a. NSAA regulations only require you to take the Part 2 test every 5 years (every 3 years for certified officials).
 - i. BUT did you know that if you take the Part 2 test before you are required to, you will move up a certification level, if you've already been in that level for at least 2 years?
 - ii. So why wait? Take the Part 2 test this year.
- b. It's good practice and can only give you more knowledge about the rules in your sport.
- c. The **Part 2 test** can only be taken during the week of **September 9 – 14**. (That's tomorrow.) (It's available 24 hours a day, but don't wait until the 11th hour on Sept 14 to take it.)

2. 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 by September 8 if possible, as observers are creating their travel schedules.

NEW RULES

Now that opening day and the first tournament weekend is in the books, how did the new rules go for you? Here are a couple of reminders:

1. New Card System for Unnecessary Delay

This new penalty is used anytime we previously charged a team with a timeout. We no longer charge a timeout to a team. Timeouts are now used by teams as the team wants.

- a. A listing of situations that should be penalized as unnecessary delay are listed on page 38 of the rulebook.
- b. At this time, the rulebook is not very clear on what action should occur/not occur after the UD penalty is given. A good rule of thumb to remember is if the referee blows the whistle and there is a significant delay to the action, then after the UD card is given, the action itself should be

denied. Otherwise, if there is no significant delay, the action can be allowed after the UD card is given.

- c. Read Penalty 3 on page 16.

2. Correcting a lineup error with a substitution

Some key items to remember when implementing this rule:

- a. The libero CANNOT be substituted if the libero number and the number of a starting player are the same.
- b. Per the penalties on page 30, the opposing team can be charged with a loss of rally/point if a team submits an inaccurate lineup, in addition to using a substitution to correct the lineup. (This is different from information I presented at some of the pre-season clinics.)
- c. Anytime a roster must be corrected after being turned in on time, a loss of rally/point is awarded.

OTHER ITEMS TO NOTE

Another great document to see more information about the rules can be found on pavo.org. Look under the current season tab, then click on Rules Differences.

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 a card for unsporting conduct, privilege is lost for the match.

2. Uniform

- All players except the libero must be in like-colored uniforms.
- Exposed undergarment under top or bottom must match predominant color of corresponding uniform top or bottom. Teammates may wear multiple styles (shorts, spandex, pants, skirts) of uniform bottoms.
- When a team cannot begin the match with six players wearing legal uniforms, a loss of rally/ point shall be awarded to the opponent at the beginning of the match, and the state association shall be notified.
- If discovered during the set, the player is removed, unnecessary delay assessed, and player may return in legal uniform later in the set.
- If coaches or schools have questions regarding the solid colored uniform change coming in 2016, refer them to the NSAA or to the powerpoint posted on the NSAA website under the Volleyball tab.

3. Control of Player Equipment

- If equipment falls to floor, play must be stopped and started with replay. Multiple problems result in unnecessary delay.

4. Warm-up Between Sets

- Neither hitting nor serving is allowed between sets. Players may use balls only on their own side of the playing area.
- Ball use during timeouts is not allowed.

5. Libero Replacements

- A rally must take place between two libero replacements unless the next action the libero will take is to serve.

6. Incorrect Libero Replacement

- Can be corrected by the team prior to the service beckon.
- Officials should correct errors as soon as they are recognized, including prior to next service contact; if officials get involved with correction, unnecessary delay is charged.
- If play begins (service contact) after incorrect replacement, illegal alignment occurs.

7. 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.

NSAA OFFICIALS MANUAL

In the manual, you will find many interesting items of note regarding officiating. Here is one item on page 12 regarding conflicts between officials and schools:

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

For the most part, officials tend to work any and all contests available to them. No one wants to turn down a contract. The contract offer is a compliment and the question of "Do I really have a conflict?" usually gets brushed aside.

Conflict of interest needs to be considered when accepting a contract. **If there is any doubt as to whether or not an official should work a game, he or she should probably avoid working it.** Even if there is only a perception that a conflict of interest exists, the official should excuse himself or herself from the contest. The first time you violate that trust you open the door to questionable motives.

What constitutes conflict of interest? Some examples are fairly clear: the official is working at a level beyond his or her expertise; a close family member is involved in the contest as a player or coach; or the official is an employee of the school. But there are "gray areas": the official has a friend who is a player; he or she attended one of the schools several years ago; he or she is a former player or coach; or, in a tournament situation, a family member's team will play the winner of the contest.

An official shall not knowingly accept assignment of a contest if any of the following conditions exist:

- a. If any official or the official's spouse is employed by any school involved in a contest.
- b. If the official is related by blood or marriage as follows: (parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother, sister, brother-in-law, son-in-law, etc.) to a person affiliated with a team involved in a contest.
- c. If the official and any person affiliated with a team involved in a contest are former or present teammates, roommates, classmates, business associates, or close personal friends.

The above conflicts are not all-inclusive and do not cover all possible conflicts, but should be used by officials when filling out schedules. The perception of conflict should be avoided whenever possible.

VOLLEYBALL MANUAL

As officials, we are only responsible for the rules listed in the rulebook. We CANNOT rule on any action outside of the rulebook. But sometimes we are asked about rules that pertain to the teams. All rules that pertain to the teams are listed in the NSAA Volleyball Manual that can be found on the NSAA website under the Volleyball tab. All team rules must be administered by school administration or the NSAA. If you have questions about one of these items during a match, refer to the host school AD or administration, Jennifer Schwartz (402-525-6616), the NSAA volleyball director or as a last resort, call me (402-598-4782) and I can direct you how to handle the situation.

I have removed from the NSAA Volleyball Manual some of the items that I think apply to officials and consolidated them into this synopsis. For the full version of the manual, refer to the NSAA website.

NSAA VOLLEYBALL MANUAL SYNOPSIS (for Officials Only)

3.11.11.3 Match Limitations

The following school and student limitations apply:

1. A triangular volleyball match, three schools playing two contests or playing two other schools in one session (night), counts as only one match. The NSAA shall permit a double-triangular in which there are 4-teams present and each team would play two of the other teams present in a triangular format. The double-triangular must take place in one evening/session. The schedule shall be pre-determined by the host as to which of the four teams will comprise each triangular. The double-triangular format in which each of the schools participates in two pre-determined matches shall count as one match and two competition points.
2. No student shall take part in more than four volleyball matches per day in tournament competition
 - a. In other than tournament competition, no student may participate in more than two matches per day.
 - b. No student shall take part in more than six volleyball matches per week, excluding tournament competition. The matches-per-week limitation does not apply to postponed contests.
 - c. Any participation during a set of any match counts as participation in that match.
3. A school that violates the team match limitation may be disqualified from district and state tournament competition. A school that violates the player limitations shall be assessed a point/loss of rally and the player shall be removed from the set. The match shall then continue.

If it is noticed by the scorer or brought to the scorer's attention that a player has violated the player limitation rule, the scorer shall notify the officials who then shall verify the violation and assess the penalty. Exhibition or unattached participation in inter-high school competition to circumvent game, match or meet limitations shall not be permitted.

3.11.11.3 (2) Out-of-State Tournaments. When a Nebraska team plays in an out-of-state tournament, the Nebraska school may play up to five matches in one day if that state permits it. When a Nebraska team plays in an out-of-state tournament, the Nebraska team will be allowed to play a third set to 15 points and receive wild card points.

NSAA SPORTSMANSHIP GUIDELINES AND EJECTIONS

12. Officials will be expected to file with the NSAA an ejection report for any ejection of a player or coach from a contest online. Any unusual situation that occurs prior to, during, or after a contest should also be reported.
13. Prompt reporting to the NSAA office by the official is necessary. Officials are asked to submit their electronic report or call the NSAA office by the day following the ejection.
14. Officials are asked to be specific in listing the reason(s) for an ejection.
15. Affiliated officials (officials registered from contiguous states) will also be required to perform this reporting function.
16. There is no appeal process for ejections for unsportsmanlike conduct.

In the realm of good sportsmanship, it is the expectation that all student spectators to wear shirts for all sub-district, district, sub-state and state events. Each individual school shall be responsible for assuring that

student spectators are appropriately attired. **Participants must keep their uniforms on while in the competition area.**

Varsity Matches

1. Regular season in-state and inter-state dual, triangular, tournament shall consist of either the best three-out-of-five set format or the best two-out-of-three set format as mutually agreed upon by the participating schools and stipulated on a written contract.
 - a. a. 3-out-of-5
 - All sets played to 25 points
 - Deciding set played to 15 points
 - No cap
 - b. 2-out-of-3
 - All sets, including the deciding, played to 25 points
 - No cap
2. Sub-district/district/sub-state/state format shall consist of the best three-out-of-five set format

Non-Varsity Matches.

Modification of match format is permitted for matches below the varsity level as mutually agreed by the schools.

Multiple Head Coaches.

When teams have multiple head coaches, only one head coach is permitted to stand during the match, this must be designated at the pre-match conference.

Official Rules.

National Federation Volleyball Rules shall govern all competition.

Officials.

NFHS Rule 5-1-1, all officials including scorer, libero tracker, timer and line judges are to be secured by the host school.

Line Judges.

Line judges are required to use flags. Line Judges shall be fair and impartial. Line judges shall avoid wearing any attire that makes reference to a school or team. It is preferred that line judges wear white shirts and black pants. Note: the flags should be red in color and of a recommended size of approximately 12 inches by 12 inches to approximately 16 inches by 16 inches. The flag and hand grip should be securely affixed to the pole.

Non-Varsity Uniforms

The uniforms worn by non-varsity teams do not have to be identical. They must have permanent numbers, but duplicate numbers can be on the roster. Duplicate numbers cannot be worn by participants simultaneously during the match.

Videotaping and Filming

1. A school may videotape or film the match(s) in which its team plays.
2. Prior permission should be received from the host school.
3. Videotaping or filming a match, in which the recording school is not playing, is not permitted.

Warm-up

There shall be a minimum of 16-minutes warm-up for all interschool matches. The warm-up period shall be divided as follows for district and state competition:

- 4 minutes—Both teams on their sides of the court.
- 5 minutes—Home team both sides of the court.
- 5 minutes—Visiting team both sides of the court.
- 2 minutes—Both teams serve from their sides of the court.

For varsity regular season play, warm-up time shall be a minimum of 16-minutes, divided as listed above or mutually agreed upon divisions by the schools.

For varsity regular season tournament play, warm-up time for all competition matches – other than the team's first contest of the day – may be 11-minutes divided as follows:

- 3 minutes—Both teams on their sides of the court.
- 3 minutes—Home team both sides of the court.
- 3 minutes—Visiting team both sides of the court.
- 2 minutes—Both teams serve from their sides of the court.

Non-varsity warm-up shall be as listed unless the schools mutually agree to other arrangements.

- It is not automatically within the authority/duties of the referee/umpire to dictate the warm-up schedule. If the match officials are to direct warm-ups, meet management should make this a part of pre-match arrangements with the officials.
- It shall be the official timer's responsibility to notify each team when it is time to change drills.
- When a team is allowed both sides of the court, the other team must be completely off the 30x60 playing court and the playable area adjacent to the playing court.
- When a team occupies both sides of the court during warm-up, it may perform whatever practice format it chooses, including serving.
- Serving is the only skill allowed during the warm-up-serving period. Another skill/activity may be conducted during this time only if the involved schools mutually agree prior to the start of warm-ups.

Bands - Artificial Noisemakers – Support Items

1. Bands are permitted during Sub-district, District, Sub-State and State contests.
2. Members **MUST** pay regular admission for Sub-district, District, Sub-State and State contests.
3. The use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. Megaphones are to be used by cheerleaders only. Band instruments, including drums, are not to be played at any time other than when the entire band is playing. Bands should not be permitted to play except prior to the match, at intermissions and timeouts.
4. The use of recorded music that has been approved by the host administration may be played by a host school for warm-up provided that a band is not available to play at that time during sub-district and district tournaments. Also permitted shall be the National Anthem or as accompaniment of an authorized student dance or cheer group.
5. Teams/Fans shall not throw items into the crowd. (i.e.: sports balls, candy, etc.)
6. Due to the fact that balloons have become a distraction and are being abused as noise makers, balloons will not be allowed at NSAA sub-district, district, and state championships.