

# NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter 2016 -1

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For the 2016 season, there are currently 181 registered NHSOA volleyball members (compared to 192 last year). 111 referees attended one of the 6 clinics that were held across the state (compared to 110 at 7 clinics in 2015). There is a total of 427 NSAA registered referees. 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 from **Wednesday September 7 (central time)** until **Monday September 12 (midnight- central time)**. The test is available 24 hours a day, but don't wait until the last hour on Sept 12 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.

## SELECTION TO WORK STATE VOLLEYBALL

I get asked quite often 'what does it take to be considered to be selected as a state hs volleyball championship referee'. Attendance at an NHSOA clinic is not mandatory (as it is in some other sports), but it is highly encouraged. Here are some other factors:

1. **You must grow with the game.** Many rules and techniques change each year. If playing techniques change, you must stay current with those changes.
2. **You must be able to keep up with the increased speed of the game.** Many players are going to camps in the off season and are learning new skills that enhance their athletic abilities. As officials, you should not keep the players from using their newly found techniques.
3. **You must apply rules accurately.** A referee must demonstrate accurate judgement and decisiveness. You should be able to anticipate game situations. Above all a state championship referee must be proficient at understanding back row attack/block violations and illegal alignment.
4. **An official must display professionalism at all times.** An official should avoid excessive fraternization with players, coaches and spectators. An official should be confident, approachable, and maintain a businesslike, fair demeanor.
5. **You must be a NSAA certified official and complete the NSAA requirements for that level.**

Requirements for the certified class are:

- a. Be an NSAA Approved official for two successive years.
- b. View the NSAA online rules meeting.
- c. Submit the Part 1 test for the current year and score 90% or higher.
- d. Submit the Part 2 test within the previous three years and score 80% or higher.
- e. During the previous year, work at least four varsity high school contests.

That is just a short synopsis of what is considered when selection is made for a championship referee. You will become much more proficient at these tasks by attending NHSOA clinics, but again attendance is not mandatory.

## **NHSOA BENEFITS**

In addition to being able to attend an NHSOA pre-season clinic, the NHSOA has formed a partnership with Hudl. Hudl is a video sharing platform that allows coaches to share game film. NHSOA has formed a partnership with Hudl to allow NSAA sport observers to also access the films. I received my first few films the day following the opening day. Even though I've not watched any of these films, I did share the match videos with the NHSOA referees who officiated each specific match. I don't receive film from every match, but I'm starting to get a few more. It's amazing the things you will see when you watch yourself on film. Only NHSOA members can receive copies of their match films. These match films are for your personal training feedback only. The films are not to be shared with schools as they have specific NSAA requirements to follow when watching film of other schools.

## **SOLID COLORED UNIFORM RULE**

The National Federation (NFHS) announced approximately 5 years ago that the solid colored uniform rule would be in effect in the 2016 season. There still seems to be confusion by some coaches and some referees. A message regarding the new solid colored uniform rule was sent out on Friday September 2 by Ashton Honnor from the NSAA. If you did not receive that message, please log into your NSAA account and go to the Message section and read the information that was sent to coaches and school administrators regarding the new uniform rule.

A synopsis of what the message said:

The libero is only required to wear solid if the team is wearing multi-colored jerseys.

1. If a team is using a libero, the team can wear multi-colored jerseys and the libero must wear a contrasting (colored) solid colored jersey - OR
2. If a team is using a libero, the team can wear a solid colored jersey and the libero can wear a contrasting (colored) multi-colored jersey - OR
3. If a team is using a libero, both the team and the libero can wear solid colored jerseys as long as the two jerseys are contrasting to each other - OR
4. If the team is NOT using a libero, the team can wear multi-colored jerseys OR solid colored jerseys.

If you have further questions, just me or Jennifer Schwartz (NSAA) know.

## **2016 NHSOA CLINIC THEME – Up Your Game**

I try to have a theme each year at the NHSOA clinics. Last year, it was the Art of Officiating. This year it was 'Up Your Game'. If you are experienced referee, you can up your game by ensuring that you are using the correct signals and mechanics. One of the examples I used was: remember a few years ago when we had to switch from signaling 'point' to 'who gets the ball. And how many referees complained 'it's hard to change when I've done it that way for years'. But

we all made the change. So if you are doing a mechanic or signal wrong, you should make an attempt to start doing it correctly, no matter how long you've been doing it that way.

Experienced referees can 'up their game' by sharing their past experiences with new referees. None of us will be officiating forever, so now is the time to mentor a new referee and add them to your crew.

You can 'up your game' by making sure you not only know and follow all the rules, but you know the 'gray' areas and the intent of the rule. You must always work to get the call right.

## **NEW RULES**

There were not many new rules this year. Most new rules were an adjustment to officiating techniques. Here are a couple of reminders:

### **1. Correcting a duplicate number on a lineup with a substitution or libero replacement**

Some key items to remember when implementing this rule:

- a. The libero can be replaced if the libero number and the number of a starting player are the same.
  - i. If the starting player is to be replaced, a substitution must be used.
  - ii. If the libero is to be replaced, the number is corrected without sanction or penalty.
- b. Anytime a roster must be corrected after being turned in on time, a loss of rally/point is awarded.

However, if a libero is injured or ill prior to the start of the match, the libero number CANNOT (just) be corrected. The libero must be replaced through the redesignation process noted on page 43 in the rulebook and the injured libero who was replaced must sit out for that set.

## **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 the coach or a team member on the bench is assessed a card for unsporting conduct, the privilege to stand is lost for the match.
- Assistant coaches cannot stand. The rules do not allow an assistant coach to stand and approach the court during a dead ball. (read rule 12-2-5, page 47 and situation 12-2-6 A in the case book)

### **2. Contrasting Team/Libero Uniforms**

- Even if a teams' jerseys and the libero jersey are compliant under the new solid colored uniform rule, the jerseys must contrast in color. One of the simple ways to determine if two jerseys are contrasting is to see if you could take the color of one of the jerseys and could you use that color to form a number on the other jersey. If the answer is 'no', then the two jerseys are probably not contrasting. Usually the following color combinations are not contrasting:
  - royal blue and black
  - dark green and black
  - purple and black
  - maroon and black
  - gold and white
  - light pink and white
  - light gray and white

These are only some examples as there could be more that are not acceptable to be used together.

### **3. Service Length**

- A server is only allowed 5 seconds to from whistle and service beckon to contact the ball for the serve. Some players might take a little longer than 5 seconds as 8 seconds is allowed in club volleyball.

### **4. Control of Player Equipment**

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

### **5. 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.

### **6. Libero Replacements**

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

### **7. 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.
- If the libero exchange occurs in the substitution zone, you can do some preventative officiating and remind them the location of the exchange zone. If you feel the need to penalize, the penalty is unnecessary delay.

### **8. Referee Signal Sequence for Net Faults (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on pg 74 of the 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.

### **9. Other Signals**

- The 'in' signal is only used when a ball contacts the floor inside the court boundaries.
- The 'touch' signal is used anytime a player last contacts the ball and the ball lands out of bounds.
- The 'out' signal is used if any object (including the net, ceiling, antenna, etc) causes the ball to land out of bounds.

### **10. Pace**

- Many of our matches take waaay tooo long. We can speed up the pace of our matches, not by blowing our whistle faster or signaling faster, but by minimizing the length of time between the end of the previous point and the new whistle for the next serve. Be ready as the server gets the ball. While she is getting the ball and going to the service area, you can scan to make sure both teams are getting ready. As the server is moving into the service area, start to get your service beckon signal ready. Once the server crosses into the service area and turns to face the court, you can whistle and beckon for the serve. You should not rush the server, but you should not wait for her to look at you either. Once she enters the service zone, she is usually ready to serve.
- If it takes you one to two (or more) seconds before you start to think about beckoning for serve, those seconds add up over the course of the evening/tournament. If there are approximately 40 serves per match and you take 4 extra seconds every match, those minutes start adding up at the end. So now you are going home 15 – 30 minutes later every night. So even if you don't care what time you get home after a match, the teams, coaches and school administrators care. 'Up Your Game'

### **11. Pre-Game Conference**

- The new procedure for summoning the coaches and team captains to the pre-game conference is to hold up your coin and blow whistle. It's been noted that some varsity coaches do not want to start immediately after the end of the JV match. The coach might not be around when the coin is raised and then what do we do. My suggestion is: prior to the start of the first match of the night, determine with either the AD or the varsity coach how much time will be needed after the end of the JV match. If the answer is 'we will start right away', then you can expect the coach to be there 'right away'. But if the answer is 'we need a few minutes before we do the coin toss', then come to an agreement as to what a few minutes is – is a few minutes 5 minutes or 15 minutes? So before the first match of the night starts, you can determine that the varsity match warm-up will start at 'x' minutes after the JV match is finished. It is acceptable to put that extra time on the visible clock if you want.
- If the coach does not come when you blow your whistle and hold up your coin, you have a couple choices to make. You can do some preventative officiating and go over and request the coach/team's presence or you can penalize the coach for unnecessary delay. But if you've done some work in advance, you should not have a problem of the coach not showing up.

## 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.

**ENTER YOUR VARSITY SCHEDULE on [www.nsaahome.org](http://www.nsaahome.org)**

You no longer have to state how many varsity matches you worked the previous year when you register. The only way your varsity matches are tracked is if you enter them on the NSAA website. In order to advance in certification level, an official must have worked at least 4 varsity matches in the previous year. For more information about this policy, please

read the officials manual on the NSAA website. As soon as assignments are completed, you can do this. If you do not enter your varsity schedule this year, you will not be able to do it next year when you register and none of your varsity matches will be counted.

## **NSAA OFFICIALS MANUAL**

Warm-up protocol and other information regarding high school matches can be found in the NSAA Officials Manual. The manual can be printed from the NSAA website. Go to the NSAA website at [www.nsaahome.org](http://www.nsaahome.org) – click on the Officials tab (toward the far right of the upper menu). The 2016-2017 Officials Manual is the top listing on the left side.

## **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.** No team representing a member school may participate in more than 16 matches, in addition to the state sponsored series of tournaments from the date of the first permitted contest to the close of the state tournament. A team may not participate in more than five tournaments that have a competition point value of three or more, which includes the conference tournament. Participation in any volleyball tournament shall count as one match of the 16 matches permitted. No team may exceed 30 competition points prior to the district and state tournaments.

The 16-match and 30-competition point limits pertain to each level of competition at which a school may sponsor a team. For example:

- a. A school's varsity may have sixteen matches.
- b. A school's junior varsity may have sixteen matches independent of the varsity.

**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. A school that violates the team match limitation may be disqualified from district and state tournament competition. Exhibition or unattached participation in inter-high school competition to circumvent game, match or meet limitations shall not be permitted.

**Student Limitations.** 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.

No student shall take part in more than four volleyball matches per day in tournament competition. If more than one tournament is scheduled at the same time, the student may only participate in one such tournament.

In all other competition, no student may participate in more than two matches per day. Any participation during a set of any match counts as participation in that match.

A school that violates the student limitations shall be assessed a point/loss of rally and the student 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 student has violated the student limitation rule, the scorer shall notify the officials who then shall verify the violation and assess the penalty.

## **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.**

### **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.

### **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.

#### **POSSIBLE CHANGE TO WARM-UP FORMAT in 2017**

Coaches were informed through the pre-season video that a new warm-up procedure could be used in 2017. Coaches were asked to experiment with this new procedure. The new procedure would still be 16 minutes on the clock, but would be divided as follows:

- 5 minutes shared court by both teams on their respective court
- 5 minutes on the entire court for the home team, to include serving
- 5 minutes on the entire court for the visiting team, to include serving
- 1 minute for both teams to get ready and report to the endline when the final buzzer sounds

#### **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.