

# NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter 2017 -2 (8-25)

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Some of you started the new season last night. I hope you've all had the chance to work at a jamboree or a scrimmage before your first regular contest. There have been a few questions regarding the new warm-up procedures, so let me see if I can give you some answers.

Remember this new policy is being implemented to minimize risk to all participants. This procedure allows the team on the court to fully use the court without any outside interference. Jennifer Schwartz, the NSAA volleyball director notes there are more injuries that occur during warm-ups than during regular games. It is a change, so it might take some time for everyone to get used to the change. If a coach or school administrator has a strong concern, you should direct them to contact Jennifer.

If teams are unsure about going to the endline prior to the start of the match, you can alleviate that concern by explaining the new procedure during the pre-match conference. Although the host administration is responsible for the warm-ups, national anthem and introductions (and they can give different instructions on how they want it to be done), no schools that I have recently encountered have objected to the new procedures. If they do not use the correct new procedure, it would be wise to remind them the new procedure will be used at all district and state matches.

Some schools might only send their starting 6 (7) players to the endline. If that is the case, but all team members want to come out to shake hands, that's fine. The important thing to remember is the starting 6 players cannot return to the bench. The starting 6 can huddle for a few seconds on the court, but should be ready when the R2 is ready to check the line-up.

Some schools might send all the bench players to the endline, but only introduce the starting 6(7). As officials, we do not care how that is done. Some teams are asking if they can stand in front of their bench and run out when they are introduced – they can during the regular season, but during districts, they must line up on the endline. It is not for us as officials to dictate how they should complete their pre-match procedures.

Remember as a referee, you are not responsible for what happens during the warm-ups or the procedures prior to the start of the first set. All concerns from coaches or teams should be directed to the host school administration or to Jennifer.

## **NEW Warm-up Procedures**

During the final minute of the warm-up, teams must return to their respective benches and the referees will proceed in the following manner:

1. The first referee and the LJ1 (taking their flag and putting on the ref stand) will proceed to the first referee side of the court. The first referee will stand closest to the net on the left side of the stand (as noted from the scoring table).
2. The second referee and the LJ2 (leave flag on table) will stay on the scoring table side of the court and will stand together, either on the right side of the net standard or immediately in front of the scoring table.
3. After player introductions/national anthem, the R1 (standing on the floor) will take one step forward towards the court and whistle for the teams to shake hands at the net.
4. After shaking hands, the starting players must immediately take their positions on the court for line-up checks, and the non-starters shall return to the team bench.

5. The first referee will shake hands with the line judge and proceed to climb the stand. The LJ1 will proceed to their corner.
6. The second referee will take their line-up card and check the line-ups as the LJ 2 picks up their flag and proceeds to their corner.
7. After verifying the line-ups are correct, the second referee will get the game ball from the table and roll it to the first server.

## **2017 OTHER POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

- **New timeout procedures**
  - Timeouts **MUST** end with a buzzer. If you are working at a multi-court tournament, and do not have a buzzer, the R2 should blow a single whistle to end the timeout.
  - The new procedure is that the R2 should whistle (with 2 short tweets) when 45 seconds have elapsed (or when both teams are on the court and ready to play). The end of the timeout is then signaled with the horn or buzzer.
  - After the horn sounds to end the timeout, the R2 should signal the number of timeouts used to the R1, who repeats this signal. The R2 then signals to the R1 with the 'ready' signal. The R2 should be in place and ready before giving the 'ready' signal.
- **R2/R1 violation procedures**
  - When the R2 whistles for a net violation, they should 'whistle' and step to the side of the violation, give the violation signal. Then give the number of the player in the net. After the R1 sees the player number, then (and only then) should the R1 indicate which teams gets the ball. The R2 should give the signal (who gets the ball) at the same time as the R1. Then the only other signal that is given at that time is the player number indicated by the R1.
  - Everyone should practice this procedure as much as possible this season.
- **Consistent Ball Handling**
  - In order to help us all be more consistent in calling ball handling violations, we should all read page 35 regarding illegal contacts. The rule is very specific and states that during an illegal contact, the ball must visibly come to rest or there must be prolonged contact. Please do not call violations because a player was playing a ball while in a 'weird' position. Look at the contact and ask yourself 'did the ball visibly come to rest or was there prolonged contact?'
  - Try not to make 'automatic' calls. If you blow the whistle every time a player tries to play a ball out of the net, look at that play closer next time to see if the ball visibly came to rest or if there was prolonged contact.
    - Or if you blow the whistle every time you see a player make a one handed set, did the ball visibly come to rest or was there prolonged contact or is that an automatic call for you? If that's an automatic call for you, break down the play later and ask yourself, 'what exactly did you see?'