

NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter 2017 - 3

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MORE EXPLANATION for the NEW WARM-UP PROCEDURES

As we finished our first week of matches and the first weekend of some big tournaments, I hope you had good luck with the new warm-up procedures. But if not, here are some more words of wisdom to help you in unusual situations.

The new warm-up procedure is a change for everyone; coaches, teams, host school management and officials. The policy was instituted to minimize the risk management for the schools (and you, as an official) and to create a safer environment for the players on the court.

The host school management as well as the coaches look to the officials for guidance in how to understand a new rule. The rulebook gives jurisdiction to the referees upon their arrival on the floor. This jurisdiction can include the warm-ups. With this authorization, the referees can assist host schools with administering the warm-ups. However, the timing of the warm-ups is the responsibility of the timer.

I've heard some different stories already about what is happening during the warm-ups. Some referees are still allowing teams to be at the back of the court. And then a new set of referees comes in for tomorrow night's match and the coaches say 'but we got to do it that way last night', so the coaches/teams are confused about what they should be doing. If you encounter this situation, here are some words you can use:

If you explain the new procedures as fact during the pre-match conference, teams understand what is expected of them. During the warm-up you will state: 'We have a new warm-up procedure this year, where during the 5 minutes that a team is on the court by themselves, the other team must be completely off the playable space surrounding the court. During your 'off time', you can stay at your bench, you can go to the locker room to change shirts, you can go to another gym space or you can go to another non-playable space, but you cannot be in the playable space adjacent to the court. In addition, during the one minute, remaining at the end of the primary warm-up time, teams should return to the bench and then be ready at the end line at the conclusion of that one minute. After introductions and the national anthem, the teams will shake hands and the starting 6 (7) players will remain on the court, while the rest of the team goes back to the bench.

When you give the team the new instructions and they say, 'but that's not what we did the other night', explain (calmly and politely) 'this rule is new for all of us and the reason for the change is to minimize risk and injury prevention'. You can also say, 'These are the instructions I've been given and it would be appreciated if you could follow them'. If they have questions, they should contact Jennifer Schwartz at the NSAA.

Can the 'off' team stand at the end line and 'shag' for the other team? That is permissible if the 'on' team is not using both sides of the court AND there is enough room at the opposite end for the 'off' team to stand and retrieve balls, as long as the 'off' does not interfere with 'on' team in anyway. The two teams cannot mutually agree to allow the 'off' team to warm-up in the playable space. The teams can mutually agree to change the divisions of the warm-up time, but the 'off'

team needs to be off the playable area adjacent to the playing court. Teams cannot mutually agree to share serving time.

The key item to remember is the 'off' team may not be in the playable space around the court and interfere in anyway with the team that is currently on the court.

INTRODUCTION PROTOCOLS

The words in the NSAA Volleyball Manual (pg 12) state:

During the final minute of the warm-up, teams must return to their respective benches. By the conclusion of the final minute, the players who will be introduced (if doing player introductions) must be on the end line. After player introductions/National Anthem, the R1 will whistle for the teams to shake hands at the net. Then 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.

Now the question is can a team remain at their bench and run out from there? With the new instructions, 'the players who will be introduced must be on the end line'.

A team can do the same activities while on the end line as they did from the team bench. Some options for the teams are: the JV team and others line up on the sideline and when a player is introduced, the player can still run up and down their own team line to slap all their teammates hands. The coach can stand on the end line too.

Can a team run from their end line to the other end line to shake hands with the opposing coach and/or referees? If the introduction procedures are done correctly, it would be time consuming and duplicated if an introduced player ran to the other side. Teams and coaches are going to shake hands at the end of introductions (when whistled by the R1 to do so as stated in the Officials Manual/Casebook on pg 68). So teams should be encouraged to fulfill their introduction protocol as they choose with their own team and then shake hands with the opposing team when directed to do so. If a team/player chooses to only step forward and raise their hand in acknowledgement, that is fine too. Players and teams can choose what they want to do when introduced as long as they stay on their own side of the court.

If a team is adamant about wanting to run out from the team bench when introduced, we (as officials) do not want to interfere with their protocol or their tradition. If a team mentions in the pre-match conference they will not be reporting to end line as the procedure but will run out from their bench, you, as the official should encourage them as they run out to be introduced, they should go to the end line and be ready to shake hands at the net when the R1 whistles.

With the new protocol, it is much more difficult for a player to find a referee to shake hands. As you know, I wholeheartedly discourage the practice of players shaking hands with the referees. That protocol is not listed in any rulebook or manual that I can find.

The information below is a reprint from a previous newsletter.

NEW WARM-UP PROCEDURES for Referees

If you've watched the NSAA pre-season video, you've probably heard about the new warm-up procedures. I've attached a document with further instructions about what the referees will do once the warm-up is over. These instructions in this document will replace the **Introductions and National Anthem Protocol** printed on page 68 in the 2017-18 Casebook/Officials Manual.

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.

NSAA DEADLINES

Part 2 (closed book) test will be available in your account from Wednesday Sept 6 through midnight of Monday Sept 11. Take the test for practice. If you do not pass, it is not counted against you (unless this is your mandated year). If you do pass, your best score is used to either move you up in certification levels or will be used during your mandated year. All of your test scores will start over at your mandated year. So take the test every year. The test is open 24 hours a day. Put these dates on your calendar just as you would enter a match date.

Note regarding closed book test: In the NSAA packet, your paper noted the year that your closed book test must be taken (your mandated date is also noted in your NSAA record, when you log into your NSAA account). Even though you are not required to take the test but every 5 years, you can move up a classification in 2 years, if you've taken the closed book test. Don't wait until that final year to take the test and then take the chance to not pass. And think of the extra rules knowledge you will gain by taking the test more often.

The Part II test is 'open' now and will close on Monday Sept 11. The test must be FINISHED by 11:59 pm. If you start after 11:00 pm on Monday night, you will not get 60 minutes to finish the test. You will only get until 11:59 which is when the test will shut off.

ENTER YOUR MATCH SCHEDULES INTO YOUR NSAA RECORD

Don't forget to apply for districts and state. Only referees that have the certification level of certified are eligible to officiate at the state championships. For district assignments, all certification levels are eligible to be assigned. However, it is possible that not everyone will be chosen for an assignment, but on certain nights, there are many more assignments available than there are referees in certain areas. If you are willing to travel outside your normal area, please indicate in the note section how far you would be willing to go.