

NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter 2017 - 4

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I hope your season is going well. We are 3+ weeks in to the new season and it seems as if there are many more matches than there are referees on some nights. I hope you are working as much as you want. If not, let me know and I can introduce you to others who might be looking for replacements. If you encounter any unusual situations, do not hesitate to contact me or Jennifer Schwartz at the NSAA (even if it's during your match).

WARM-UP PROCEDURES

Not that you want to hear any more about the new warm-up procedure, but this week the NSAA received a survey from the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS – they write the rules for high school). Here is further information about the survey:

The NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee, working with the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, is conducting a warm-up procedure survey for the state associations. This survey is a result of the 2015-16 High School Report in which the overall injury report for high school volleyball was relatively positive as volleyball continues to have one of the lowest injury rates of the 22 high school sports under surveillance. However, the rules committee is concerned with the percentage of competition related concussions occurring during pregame/warm-ups (33%).

In an effort to gather common pregame/warm-up procedures at both the state series level of competition and regular season competition, the NFHS Rules Committee has developed a survey for the state associations. The survey results will be used by the Volleyball Rules Committee to discuss possible development of warm-up guidelines for risk minimization and provide data to state volleyball administrators regarding current practices in each state.

All of the questions being asked are how does each state conduct its warm-ups. I think it was a very positive move by the NSAA to enact a safer warm-up procedure before being told to do so by the National Federation.

TIMEOUTS

Here is some further information about the new end of timeout procedures:

The rulebook on pg 24 says:

rule 5-5-3-b12: Whistle a warning at 45 seconds and instruct the timer to sound the audio signal (horn) at 60 seconds to end the time-out or whistle if both teams are ready to play prior to the 45-second warning whistle, instruct timer to sound the horn.

Here's what the officiating manual on pg 78, 1f says:

When 45 seconds have elapsed during the time-out, the second referee shall sound a double whistle to remind teams to return to the court. At 60 seconds, the timer shall sound the audio signal to end the time-out. The second referee indicates the number of time-outs used, informs the coach if two time-outs have been used and gives ready-to-play signal to the first referee.

1g: When both teams are clearly ready to play, the second referee instructs the timer to stop the clock and whistles two short blasts, to confirm that everyone is ready to resume play. The second referee then instructs the timer to sound the horn, moves to a position on the receiver's side of the net with whistle in mouth and gives the court back to the first referee. NOTE: If the second referee has already whistled the 15-second warning whistle, there is no need to give another warning whistle as the time-out ends early. Every time-out ends with a warning whistle and a horn. The second referee still follows the protocol of checking both team benches and signaling the number of time-outs taken to the first referee before giving the court back.

In case you did not notice the notation that rule 5-5-3-b-19 was a new procedure too, it says:

The second referee shall . . . Whistle a warning at two minutes, 45 seconds followed by the timer sounding the audio signal at three minutes unless both teams are on the court.

There no longer is a buzzer at 15 seconds left. Second referee blow your whistle 'tweet tweet', then the buzzer should sound at zero.

If you plan to end a timeout early, make sure all 12 players are back on the court and are in their 'ready' positions. Just because most of the players return to the court, it does not mean that the coach has finished instructing them or that all of them are ready. Do not rush to end the timeout.

ASSISTANT COACHES LEAVING THE BENCH DURING A DEAD BALL

The rule about assistant coaches is on pg 48 in the rulebook. Rule 12 is Conduct. Rule 12.2.5 states:

Assistant coaches shall remain seated on the bench during a set except to:

- a. Ask the second referee, during a dead-ball situation, to review the accuracy of the score, verify the number of time-outs used, request the serving order of his/her team, or verify the proper server for the opponent;
- b. Stand at the bench to greet a replaced player;
- c. Confer with players during time-outs;
- d. Spontaneously react to an outstanding play by a player(s) of their own team;
- e. Attend to an injured player with permission of a referee.

As you can see, the rule does not say at any time that an assistant coach may stand to coach or address the players on the court, even during a dead ball. (However, the assistant coach may speak to the players on the court while seated at the bench.) During a dead ball, the assistant coach can only address the second referee for the stated situations, but may not address players on the court. The penalty for an assistant coach leaving the bench to coach players is noted in rule 12.2.8k -> . . . Unsporting conduct for a coach (head or assistant), substitute or team attendant includes, but is not limited to the following:

- j. Illegally leaving the designated bench during the set;

in which the penalty then is a yellow card (warning) or subsequent violations would be a red card (point or loss of rally), followed by disqualification of the individual.

FURTHER INFO ABOUT INTERACTION WITH COACHES

Referees should be prepared to answer legitimate questions from the coach and captain throughout the match. Never avoid or seek contact with a coach. As an official, we should not comment on or make predictions relative to the outcome of matches. Politely answer a coach's question with the applicable rule. Do not ignore a coach's question. But if a coach does not understand the limits of their interaction with you, a sanction is appropriate. For more information about professionalism and other responsibilities, read pages 58-61 in the casebook.

LIBERO ACTIONS

Just a reminder about Libero actions: on pg 37, rule 9-5-6 states:

. . . A libero shall not:

- a. Complete an attack from anywhere if, at the moment of contact, the ball is entirely above the height of the net;
- b. Set the ball using overhead finger action while on or in front of the attack line extended, resulting in a completed attack above the height of the net;
- c. Block or attempt to block
- d. Rotate to the front row.

Further explanation regarding **letter a**: that situation usually occurs when a libero attacks (spikes) from the back row. You as the referee must determine where was the ball when the

libero contacted it. And do not listen to the coaches who say to you, 'but she's only 5 foot tall'. It is not how tall she is, but where was the ball when she contacted it. If you watch warm-ups, you will usually see that player participating in attacking drills.

Further explanation regarding **letter b**: It is not illegal for a libero to handset a ball in front of the attack line. The libero handset does not become illegal until 'a completed attack occurs above the height of the net'. Definition of a completed attack (rule 9-5-1b): A completed attack occurs the instant the ball completely crosses the vertical plane of the net, or is legally contacted (by an opponent). The attacker may not be a front row player or back row player and contact a attack zone libero handset while the ball is entirely above the height of the net. But the libero can handset in front of the attack line as long as the attacker contacts the ball below the height of the net.

You should also read the note at the end of rule 9-5-1 on page 37.

PROSTHETICS

If you encounter a player with an artificial limb, you should talk with the coach and see if they have a waiver granted by the NSAA. Do not address the player. If you encounter this situation in after the match has started, again talk with the coach and if a letter has not been requested, call me or Jennifer (Schwartz) for further assistance. If nothing else, allow the player to play and we can deal with it after the match. This is one of those situations, where you continue to play and then let the NSAA know about it afterwards. But try to call one of us if possible.

SANCTIONS

Know when to apply a sanction. Read the rulebook about individual behavior sanctions. Know when to apply an unnecessary delay sanction. It is not appropriate to issue an unnecessary delay sanction because a player on the court did not know she was being substituted. It is not appropriate for you to issue an unnecessary delay sanction for something that you as a referee caused.

LINEUPS

Per the rulebook a written lineup must be turned in before the start of each set. Some coaches are saying 'the same' (meaning use the same lineup as the previous set). As long as the written lineup remains at the table and the scorekeeper and the R2 write the lineup exactly as written, there should be no problem. But the scorekeeper, nor the R2 can advance or move back the first server, so the floor positions match the written lineup. The lineup as written must be in the scorebook and as starting players on the court.

DUPLICATE NUMBERS ON BELOW VARSITY LEVEL ROSTERS

Duplicate numbers may be on a lower level roster, ie, JV, freshman, reserve, (usually when a team is using multiple styles of uniforms). But the duplicate numbers may not be on the court at the same time. You should have another method to identify which duplicate number is who, #7LS (long sleeves), #7W (with white inserts on her shirt), #7P (ponytail), etc.

WEAR YOUR NSAA PATCH

Each of you should have an NSAA patch. It was sent to you during the first week of the season after deadline for completing the Part I open book test. If you don't have a device to keep your

patch on, let me know and I will send you a magnet. It's much better if your patch is not sewn or ironed on one specific shirt. What happens if you spill something on that shirt before your match and you need to put on a new shirt? Line judges do not wear patches.

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. You can make adjustments to your application at any time. This is the only way your varsity matches are tracked. There are a number of referees who have dropped in classification because they did not enter their varsity schedules. Don't let that be you.

APPLY TO WORK DISTRICTS and STATE

October 1 is the deadline to apply to work districts and state. Any certification level can work at district matches, but only those with a certified certification can apply to work at state. The school classes (ie, B, C1 and C2) have changed the way they want districts to be completed, which then makes many more matches all occur on the same date. If you are able to travel, please note in your application, how far you would be willing to travel.