

NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter 2020 -1

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REFEREE COVID GUIDELINES

In this time of unknown, the following procedures are being recommended to assist in your safety as well as the safety of other participants at volleyball matches:

1. Schools will have the final say in how matches will be handled at their schools. Hopefully you will know about these procedures in advance (if I know, I will publish them on my website). However, there could be times when sudden changes are made and we, as the rules enforcers, must now be the rules followers. As an official, it is not the time for you to make a 'statement' regarding your personal opinions regarding procedures. If you want to officiate, you must assist all involved in following the school directives. If you are uncomfortable with any of the school's procedures, you should the school or your assignor as soon as possible.
2. Some schools might choose to not change benches. Some schools might require temperature checks prior to entering the gym. Teams will NOT shake hands prior to the start of the match nor at the completion. Schools can choose to change warm-up procedures and times. Schools can choose to introduce players or not.
3. If a school requires participants to wear masks, then you WILL wear a mask at all times while in the school and gym. If a school does not require you to wear a mask, I would STRONGLY RECOMMEND that you still wear a mask (what will it hurt?). You, as the rules enforcer can set the example for others.
4. I would definitely recommend that you invest in an **electronic whistle**. Some of you have already ordered them. Some of you have ordered them and they will be delivered in the future (hopefully before the season starts). Almost any of them will do the job in a single court situation. Check different websites to see what might be available. However, DO NOT pay more than about \$30 for a whistle. It is not necessary for you to spend \$100 +/- to get a whistle. Just order it now and use it when it arrives. If the season starts before your whistle arrives, you might have to wear your mask over your whistle, as you do not want droplets being spread throughout the gym. If you want suggestions on where to order one, just email me.
5. This year more than ever, it will be important that you do not interact closely with players or participants. Even though you are wearing a mask, you should still try to maintain a 6' distance from others. If you need to travel with your partner, you will have to make your own decision about traveling together or if you should wear a mask while in the car.
6. You should not bring your own personal flags to a volleyball match. If the school does not have them, then flags will not be used. If flags are provided, make sure the handles are sanitized frequently throughout the match(es). LJ's are subject to wearing a mask, if the school has that requirement.
7. If sanitizer is available on the scoring table, I would recommend that the referees use the sanitizer each time they approach the table and when they leave the table. It is important for the public to see you visibly using sanitizer. If sanitizer is not available, it would be wise to use your own. Let me know if you need some.
8. You are the enforcer of the volleyball rules as written in the rulebook. The schools or home administration makes the decisions on all outside influences in the gym and how the match is conducted.

Refer to 2019 NHSOA Newsletters for review of additional information. (nhsoahome.org)

2020 NHSOA VOLLEYBALL CLINICS

Anyone that registers as a member of the Nebraska School Activities Association now automatically becomes a member of the Nebraska High School Officials Association (NHSOA). Officials can attend any offered clinic free of charge.

2020 clinics will be offered online through the Zoom application.

Check back (on the NHSOA website) one hour prior to the start of the clinic for the log-in information. The first time you log-in, you will be prompted to download the application, but it does not take very long. You can participate on your phone or any internet connected device.

(complete your rules test prior to participating) The test does not have to be submitted, but you should have answered most of the questions.

Wednesday August 5 – 7:00 pm - Rules Review Session

Friday August 7 - 7:00 pm - Rules Review Session

Monday August 10 – 7:00 pm - Rules Review Session

Saturday August 15 – 8:30 AM - Rules Review Session

Additional sessions throughout the season will be added.

WE July 31 Deadline to register (if registered last year)

FR Aug 21 Deadline to register (if new this year)

MO July 27 – TU Aug 11 NSAA Online Rules meeting (no charge)

WE Aug 12 – TU Aug 18 NSAA Online Rules meeting (\$25 fee)

WE Aug 19 – FR Aug 21 NSAA Online Rules meeting (\$50 late fee)

MO Aug 10 First practice date

MO Aug 17 – SA Aug 22 ; 24,25 NSAA Jamboree dates

FR Aug 21 NSAA online test due

TH Aug 27 1st competition date

WE Sep 9 – FR Sep 14 Part 2 test (required of all referees who want to be classified as 'certified') - available online through your NSAA account 24 hours a day.

Posted on the NHSOA website (nhsoahome.org) are [National Federation of High Schools \(NFHS\) guidelines](#) that can be used by referees.

And the [NSAA Fall Season Guidelines](#).