

NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter 2020 -2

Sue Mailhot

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9-11-20 As I send this newsletter, the Governor of Nebraska is loosening up some restrictions in most parts of the state. However, the NSAA covid guidelines will NOT change. We still want matches to be played through the entire season by healthy teams. And we are depending on you, as referees to assist in this process.

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 or the NHSOA 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 contact the school or your assignor as soon as possible.
2. Some schools might choose to not change benches. If the schools choose to not change benches, the teams will stay on the same side of the court for the entire match. Some coaches might not agree with this (thinking they should have choice of bench), but that is not something for you to become involved in. If a coach disagrees with the coin toss procedure, they need to take that up with their school administration.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. If you do not use an **electronic whistle**, wear your mask over your whistle, as you do not want droplets being spread throughout the gym.
6. 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.
7. 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.

8. If sanitizer is available on the scoring table, I would recommend that 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.

9. 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.

PART 2 TEST (Closed Book)

The part 2 closed book test will be available online 24 hours a day starting on Wednesday Sept 9 through Monday Sept 14. Remember that when you start the test, you should be finished before the 11:59 pm deadline. If you have questions, just let me know. The part 2 test is required each year of anyone who wants to maintain their Certified Referee status.

ENTER YOUR SCHEDULE IN NSAA RECORD

Don't forget to enter all your Nebraska varsity matches into your NSAA record. That is how your number of matches is tracked for your certification level.

GENERAL ZOOM MEETINGS

I will start having regular zoom meetings throughout the season. If you have an unusual situation that occurs during a match, send me a comment or come on the zoom meeting to discuss it. These meetings will be very informal and will not have a specific agenda. Meeting link info will be posted on the NHSOA website a couple of hours prior to the meeting.

SU 9-13 7:00 pm (there will be discussion on some Part 2 test questions)

MO 9-21 7:00 pm

SU 9-27 7:00 pm

MO 10-5 7:00 pm

ROSTER with ATTACHED LINEUPS

If a coach has a single page roster combined with their lineup, the page must be turned in at the coin toss (or presented to the table prior to the coin toss). When the coach wants to submit the lineup, they must go to the table and write in the lineup. The roster/lineup must stay at the table until the end of the set. The lineup is given back to the coach and then returned with the lineup for the second set. The process is repeated for the 3rd (and 4th/5th) set.

MASKS FALLING TO FLOOR

Earlier in the season, I wrote about a mask falling to the floor during play I gave an incorrect answer. The correct way to handle a mask falling to the floor is unintentional and a REPLAY

should be given (not unnecessary delay). **Rule 9-8-g1**: A replay may be declared when play is interrupted because a foreign object enters the proximity of the playing area.

END OF SET PROCEDURES

Remember the new end of set procedures involve blowing a whistle to end the set (while crossing your arms across your chest), then blowing your whistle again to send the teams to their benches. In normal times, you would have given the 'switch benches' signal (swinging your right hand across the front of you and your left hand crosses behind). But now, you will just swing your arms forward to send the teams directly back to their benches.

END OF MATCH PROCEDURES

At the end of the match, signal the final point, blow the whistle and cross your arms across your chest to signal end of set, move your arms straight out to your sides (signaling teams to go to their endline), blow the whistle and bring your arms together in front of your body, signaling teams to approach the attack line to give the final 'wave'.

LIBERO ATTACKING

It is difficult to judge when a libero attack from behind the attack line is legal or illegal (entirely above the height of the net). But if you watch the libero during warm-ups, you can usually tell if the libero is planning to attack or not and how high she reaches. If the attack is legal or illegal is a judgement call by the first referee. If you feel the attack is illegal, it is up to you to make the call.

EXCEPTIONAL SUBS

If a team has a limited number of players on its roster, make sure you know the rules regarding injured players and exceptional substitutions. In rule 10-3-6 (pg 43), there is a specific priority of how an injured player may be replaced. It is also noted that a team may not play with fewer than 6 players if there is a legal substitute available.

PLAYERS MUST SIT ON BENCH

There is no (covid) allowance to permit substitute players to stand.

TIMEOUTS and WARNING WHISTLES

On pg 79 in the Casebook/Officials Manual, there are specific instructions on the duties of the R2 pertaining to timeouts. Item 1f states: When 45 seconds have elapsed during the timeout, 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 timeout.