

2021 Nebraska High School Volleyball Pre-Season Points of Emphasis

This newsletter is brought to you by the NHSOA – Nebraska High School Officials Association. The purpose of the NHSOA is to organize Nebraska athletic officials into a cohesive, statewide association that encourages excellence in all sports, emphasizes sportsmanship, fair play and integrity at all levels. We are committed to statewide educational outreach and clinics, increased evaluations, as well as, providing services and support for the benefit of membership. It is important for you to know that although the NHSOA is endorsed as the officials' organization in partnership with the NSAA, the Association is directed and administrated by officials.

Each sport has a representative on the NHSOA Board of Directors. Sue Mailhot is the volleyball representative. You will receive newsletters and other important information from me throughout the season.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

Be aware of upcoming NSAA deadline dates:

MO July 26 – FR Aug 10 NSAA Online Rules Meeting (free) (can view for a fee until Aug 20)

FR Aug 20 Part I test due online

WE Sep 8 – MO Sep 13 Part II test due online (test open 24 hours)

(Required annually of all referees who want to be classified as certified)

Make sure to enter your Varsity schedules on the NSAA Website once you receive any assignments. This is especially important if you want to be considered for post-season assignments.

Teams can schedule jamborees from Monday Aug 16 through Tuesday Aug 24. Hopefully you can work at a pre-season event to get ready for the season. The first high school contests can be played on Thursday Aug 26.

Is your uniform ready?

- Black shoes, black socks, black dress pants, white polo, whistle, red/yellow cards, ball pump, net chain, small ref bag.
- Blue, gray and white polos can be worn this year. Only the 'official' colors can be worn or the white certified officials polo or a plain white polo. It is perfectly acceptable to continue wearing your white shirt. There is no need to buy new shirts unless you want to.
 - Referees must match in the color of their officiating shirts. White is always the default color.
 - Blue and gray shirts can ONLY BE ordered from vbofficialsgear.com (there are no other authorized sellers) You can still wear a plain white polo (you do not have to buy the 'official' one). At this time, the company is experiencing supply issues. But they expect to have more in stock towards the end of September.
 - Due to the specific colors of the blue and gray shirts, it is preferred that the blue and gray shirts only be ordered from the authorized seller.
 - Only the authorized shirts will be worn at state this year. White will be the default and buying the new blue and gray shirts is not required.
- Have you tried on your pants?
 - Do they still fit?
 - Do you know where your belt is?
- Within approximately 10 days after August 20, the NSAA will send to all new referees a patch for your shirt. If your patch does not arrive prior to your first match, you can still officiate.

Preseason Reminders:

- Know the rules of the game. As an official you should take pride in knowing all of the High School rules and procedures. Take time to read through the rules book, watch the online rules meeting, attend a clinic, take the test, etc. There is always something new you can learn.
- If you are assigned by an assignor, keep your schedule up-to-date.
- Confirm matches with your partner via email or text 2-3 days out.
- Each of you should confirm the match with the school AD. This is especially important with everything going on this year. A simple email that says "Good morning AD (name), I see that ?? and I are scheduled to work your JV and Varsity matches Thursday night starting at 5:30. We will be there at 5:00. Please confirm and let us know if there are any special procedures you would like us to follow at this time. Are masks required? Thanks!"
- You should plan to arrive at the site at least 30 minutes before the match. This gives you time to check the net, check the balls, use the restroom, talk to the match administrator/AD (even more important this year) and get your thoughts together for the match or matches ahead of you.
 - The coin toss should be conducted 20 min before the match start time. Remember social distancing (and masks, if required by the school).
 - Typical warm ups are 5/5/5/1, but schools can choose their own times.
 - It is not automatically within the authority/duties of the referee to dictate the warm-up schedule. If the match officials are to direct warm-ups, host school management should make prior arrangements with the officials.
 - It shall be the official timer's responsibility to notify each team when it is time to change drills.
- When the match is over, you and your partner should thank your table crew, take your belongings and leave together immediately. If you want to debrief, do it on the way home or outside at your car.
- If you are running late for some reason, communicate with your partner and/or the AD.
- If a coach has a single sheet of paper for their roster and their lineup, that sheet must be turned into the table after the coin toss. The coach is not allowed to take the sheet back with them. When they want to enter their lineup, they should return to the table to do so. In between sets, you can return that sheet to the coach, but during the match, the sheet must remain at the table.

SPECIAL ITEMS of NOTE

- The home school will dictate most of the procedures outside of the rules, especially if masks are to be worn. If the school requires masks, then you should wear them properly and set an example for the rest of the teams and spectators. However, referees are not the mask police.
- Teams will NOT switch benches this year.
- There are no restrictions regarding handshaking, unless the playing schools have decided otherwise. Teams can be called to the 10' line to begin and end the match.
- The home school will control how the gym and volleyballs are sanitized. If a school chooses to 'wet' wipe balls throughout the match and a team complains about the ball, that question should be directed to the host management.
- As a referee, we are only to facilitate the rules as noted in the rulebook.

MASKS

If masks are required at a school:

- There will NOT be mask breaks for teams. If a team needs a mask break, they can call a timeout (or the players can take a second or two here and there to release the mask).
- If players are wearing masks and a mask falls off, it should be treated as if it were a foreign object on the court. If it interferes with play, then play must be stopped and unnecessary delay should be issued. If the player takes the mask and controls it (ie, throws it off the court or stuffs it in the waistband of their shorts), then let play continue.
- If a mask comes loose and contacts the net, you can treat it like 'loose hair'. But if the player was going to contact the net regardless if the mask was there or not, then it is still a fault.

NSAA OFFICIALS MANUAL

Warm-up protocol and other information regarding high school matches can be found in the NSAA Officials Manual. The manual can be printed from the NSAA website. Go to the NSAA website at www.nsaahome.org – click on the Officials tab (toward the far right of the upper menu). The 2021-2022 Officials Manual is the top listing on the left side.

The NSAA wants to remind you:

- If you are feeling sick or are experiencing even a low-grade fever, don't go out and officiate. Stay home and find out what the problem is. Do not do something that could cause harm or impose a health risk to someone else. Maintain physical distance as much as possible.
- Be vigilant about social distancing (6 feet), which will take concentration during the time you are at a game site: before, during and after. Do your very best to keep your distance protected. This protocol will be challenging of course. There are going to be times when proper social distancing gets violated. Minimize those incursions. Learn to physically keep yourself at as safe a distance as you reasonably can. Stay away from handshakes. Plan ahead.
- Pay special attention to your personal hygiene. Wash your hands. Make sure hand sanitizer is available for your use. Minimize touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Carry sanitizer in your car.

There are some upcoming clinics scheduled for the middle to western parts of the state. You can check out the contact person for these clinics on the NSAA website under the Officials tab/Volleyball Camps. These clinic/camps are meant for everyone. Everyone is invited to attend these clinic/camps. There is no cost as this is a benefit of your NSAA/NHSOA membership.

MO Aug 16	6:00 pm	Broken Bow HS
TU Aug 17	4:45 pm	Chadron State College
WE Aug 18	5:30 MT	Scottsbluff HS
TH Aug 19	6:00 pm	North Platte St Pat's HS
TH Aug 19	5:00 pm	Wisner-Pilger HS

Clinics are also being scheduled for the Omaha/Lincoln areas. If you are interested in having a clinic in your area, just let me know.

I am having some test review zoom sessions on the following dates:

TU Aug 10	7:00 pm
TH Aug 12	7:00 pm
SU Aug 15	7:00 pm

The zoom link will be sent out on the morning of the session.

I will also 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 do not have a specific agenda. Meeting link info will be sent out on the morning of the zoom and posted on the NHSOA website.

SU 9-12 7:00 pm

MO 9-20 7:00 pm

SU 9-26 7:00 pm

MO 10-4 7:00 pm