

NHSOA Volleyball Newsletter

Sue Mailhot
NHSOA Volleyball Chair
suemvb@cox.net

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And so it begins! Another high school volleyball season started last night and I think almost every referee in the state was working. I hope you all were able to get to a pre-season scrimmage before you stepped on the court for your first match.

For the 2014 season, there currently 164 registered NHSOA volleyball members. 83 of those members attended one of the 8 clinics that were held across the state. I want to thank all of those who took the time to attend. I think everyone learned something new at the clinics. I also want to thank the following NHSOA volleyball committee members who assisted at some of the clinics: Marg Brungardt and Julie Hall at the Wayne clinic, Roger Hammond at the Hastings and Centura clinics, Kim Kwapnioski – Norfolk Catholic, Mary Lou Marshall – Gering and Jen Myers and Eddie Walters at Centura.

LAST YEAR RULE CHANGE REMINDERS

1. Who even remembers that last year was the first year that we changed the **signal sequence**? I hope the signal sequence is second nature to us as we begin the season.
2. One of the other changes from last year that still has many referees confused is ‘what is the signal sequence when the **R2 blows the whistle and initiates a call**’? So here’s the quick version:
When the R2 blows the whistle and initiates a call (ie, player in the net, centerline foul or other foul that can be called by the R2), the R2 indicates the nature of the foul, followed by a player’s number,(only if necessary). The R1 waits for the R2 to show the number, then the R1 indicates which team will get the ball. The R2 should mirror the ‘who gets the ball’ signal at the same time as the R1. The R1 would then indicate the player number (only if necessary). The R1 does not at any time give the signal for the fault nor does the R2 repeat the fault signal.
 - a. If the R1 whistles for the net foul, the regular procedures are used (‘who gets the ball’, followed by the nature of the fault. R2 repeats the signals.
3. The **NHSOA patch** shall be worn on the left shirt sleeve.
 - a. If your shirt has the Certified Officials logo, wear the patch above that logo.
 - b. You can attach the patch with a magnet, if you desire.
4. **Lineups** shall not be made available to anyone except the official scorer and the official libero tracker until they have been recorded and the deadline for submission has passed. (top of page 59 in the Officials Manual)
 - a. The lineup prepared and submitted by each coach shall remain with the scorer at the officials’ table throughout each set. (page 108 of the officiating manual)
5. **Flags shall be red in color.** NEW in 2014, flags are required for line judge use. Schools should have flags. If they do not, you should send a report ASAP to the NSAA. Also note that next season, flags will be required for use by line judges. It is recommended that line judges should dress in white polo and dark pants. You should also contact the NSAA if a school provides excellent line judges.
 - a. **Line judges** do not chase errant balls. The only time a line judge should touch a ball is to help retrieve the game ball at the end of a set or match.

- a. All players on the court at the beginning of the timeout need to return to the court at the end of the timeout; except for a substitution that was made during the timeout.
 - i. If a libero replacement is supposed to take place at the interval when the timeout was called, the libero needs to return to the court and the replacement can occur after the end of the timeout.

OTHER REMINDERS

1. Don't forget to **enter your VARSITY schedule on the NSAA website**. That is the only way your matches **are counted** for your certification. Enter your schedule by September 8 if possible, as observers are creating their travel schedules.
2. **Closed book test (Part 2)**
 - a. NSAA regulations only require you to take the Part 2 test every 5 years (every 3 years for certified officials). BUT did you know that if you take the Part 2 test before you are required to, you will move up a certification level, if you've already been in that level for at least 2 years? So why wait? Take the Part 2 test this year.
 - b. It's good practice and can only give you more knowledge about the rules in your sport.
 - c. The **Part 2 test** can only be taken during the week of **September 10 – 15**. (It's available 24 hours a day.)
3. Read the **INTRODUCTION in the Officials Manual** on pages 55 - 60 in the casebook.
4. It is always a good practice to read the **Officials Code of Ethics** (rulebook page 67)
5. It's not a bad idea to print and carry a copy of the **NSAA Officials Manual**, which can be found on the NSAA website under the Officials tab (located under the Other Info tab on the left side).

MECHANICS and TECHNIQUES

1. TIMEOUT – pg 76 in casebook. The second referee shall:
 - a. Recognize the timeout with two short whistles and display the TO signal.
 - b. Remind the time to start the clock.
 - c. **END the timeout with 2 short whistles if the audio signal has not sounded.**
 - d. Clearly signal the number of TO's each team has used (R1 repeats).
 - e. Scan both benches and give R1 the ready to play signal.

PRE-MATCH CONFERENCE/COIN TOSS PROCEDURES

After gathering captains and coaches from each team, the two referees will stand side-by-side facing the net. The R1 conducts the meeting.

R1: Hello everyone, my name is ?? and this is ??, who will be the R2 today.

- Captains, would you like to introduce yourselves. (It is not necessary to identify a speaking captain at the conference. The speaking floor captain will be identified on the lineup sheet.)
- Coaches, do you know each other?

FORMAT

- 'We are playing best 3 out of 5 today. If we go to a deciding set, at least one captain should be prepared to meet the R2 over here for the coin toss.'
- At the end of the warm-up, the Star Spangled Banner will be played followed by introductions (or vice versa). After the final action, please be prepared to take the court immediately.

GROUND RULES

- Today the court boundary lines are (green – black, etc). Because there are so many other different lines on the court, make sure you are aware of the ones for this match.'
- Ceiling (pick one or several)
 - o 'There are no obstructions on the ceiling.'
 - o 'There is a curtain divider directly above the center of the court. If the ball contacts the curtain from your side and you have a contact left, you can continue to play. But if the ball contacts the curtain and goes over, the ball will be out.'
 - o 'There is a curtain/wrestling mat, etc above this court only. If the ball contacts the object and you have a contact left, you can continue to play. But if the ball contacts the object and goes over, the ball is out.'
 - o 'The backboards are all folded up in the ceiling, so they will be played as part of the ceiling.'
 - o 'The backboards are in their regular position (at the end of the court), so the ball will be blown dead if and when a ball contacts it. I will make a judgement as to if you could have played the ball or not. If I thought you could have played the ball, if the backboard was not there, it will be a reply. But if the ball would have gone out if the backboard was not there, then the ball will be called out.'
- 'Play the ball until you hear a whistle.'
- Coaches and captains, remind your substitutes to wait until the R2 authorizes them to enter. If there is more than one substitute at a time, make sure the second pair waits outside of the zone.
- No jewelry or hard headbands may be worn. Please make sure all your players have removed those items.
- It is the player's job to chase the ball when it goes outside of the court. The line judges will not chase the ball.
- Coaches – are all your players in correct and legal uniforms and ready to play? As soon as we leave this conference, I would like to see your libero uniform. Please send your libero over. Thank you.
- R2 (name), do you have anything to add?
- Coaches, do you have any questions?

COIN TOSS

Pointing to the home team, the R1 should announce:

- You are the home team, is this the bench you've chosen (want to start on)?
- (pointing to the opposing team, the R1 should announce:) You are the visiting team, (if there are multiple captains) which one of you will call the coin toss?
- Call heads or tails in the air, if I drop it, we will do it again. (At this time, you may ask the home captain to repeat what the visiting captain calls.)
- After tossing the coin and catching it with both hands, show the visiting team the result, then show the home team the result. Announce to the winner of the result, it is 'heads' (or tails), you will have your choice of SERVE or RECEIVE. (You cannot ask them what they want because they might not know what their options are.)

Announce to the opposing team, 'you will serve/receive from this side.' Have a great game and good luck. (It is not appropriate at this time to shake hands with anyone nor 'fist bump' anyone.) R2 should immediately turn to the scorekeeper and tell them which team will be serving/receiving from which side. It is a good habit for the R1 to place the coin in the pocket of the team that will serve first (from the R1's position).

DECIDING SET

- If we go to a deciding set, at least one captain should be prepared to meet the R2 over here for the coin toss.
 - o Pointing to the visiting team, R2 announce, you called the first coin toss, (pointing to the home team captain, announce) you will call this coin toss. After seeing the result, announce to the winner, you have choice of SERVE, RECEIVE or SIDE. The loser of the coin toss then gets their choice of the remaining options.

NEED A REFEREE

Someone needs a partner for a match in Norfolk on Tuesday Sept 9, starting at 5:30. Let me know if you might be available.

Notify me if you have any unusual rules situations that arise. I'd like to share some of those situations and how there were resolved. Have a great season and I hope to see you on a court sometime,

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