

**New York State  
2014  
Coaches Rules and Procedures  
Manual**

**This document was prepared by the rules interpreter of the Mid-Hudson Board of Volleyball Officials (MHBVO) strictly for use by those schools serviced by MHBVO within Section 1 & 9**

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## **Ball Handling Guidelines**

Ball handling is a topic of conversation at every committee meeting. The guidelines are as follows:

- Consistency is paramount. When a decision is made and a ball handling error whistled, the official should have the ability to whistle that same contact for the duration of the contest.
- Successive or multiple contacts are legal during blocking or during the team's first contact. A carry, throw or prolonged contact is a fault.
- Over control of the ball will usually result in a caught or thrown ball fault being whistled
- Under control of the ball will usually result in a double hit fault being whistled
- Judge the point of contact only. Do not take in to account the player's body position or "athletic ability" when judging ball handling.
- Do not base ball handling decisions on the spin of the ball, spectator or participant reaction.
- Exigent or great plays should be judged less severely. Blatant faults should always be whistled.
- A poor ball handling decision (e.g., taking the ball with hands instead of passing it with forearms) doesn't necessarily equal a spectacular or great play.

## **NYSPHSAA Handbook and Committee Rulings**

No High School student (or younger) is allowed to wear jewelry while on the playing surface. Sneakers will be worn by line judges and any participant that is on the playing surface.

A letter from the athlete's medical doctor is necessary for equipment that is worn by a participant not covered by the rule book. Check local section policy.

The sportsmanship card will be read the first time an official works a school's contest. The sportsmanship card will be read at all post-season matches.

Spectator participation is allowed during competition. There is no wording in the NCAA rule book that supports being quiet during the serve. Actions NOT allowed by spectators are calling out the athletes' name or number, racial, religious, sexual or derogatory comments. Throwing objects and artificial noise makers are also not allowed. Check local section policy.

# **New York State Modifications to the NCAA Rules**

## **Rule 1: Facilities and Equipment**

Attack line extensions are not required to play a match.

The referee stand and platform may or may not be distributed evenly behind the pole. The ladder may or may not be distributed evenly at the back of the referee platform.

## **Rule 2: The Net and Related Equipment**

The net height for all NYSPHSAA interscholastic men's competition will be 7 feet 11 5/8 inches

The net height for both men's and women's competition must measure correctly at the center. The two ends of the net must measure the same and should not be more than 3/4 inch higher than the center of the net.

## **Rule 5: Teams**

If a coach is not available, the playing captain may NOT assume the duties and responsibilities of a coach.

## **Rule 6: Individual and Team Sanctions**

Check local section policy for sanction guidelines. If no such policy exists, the NCAA rule is in effect. (Exception: Delay sanctions for illegal player equipment/jewelry see Rule 7)

A coach may NOT receive an individual yellow card for minor unsporting conduct. Coaches are only to receive red card sanctions for any misconduct minor or rude.

- ✓ Many officials are unsure when to sanction a coach, athlete or other match participant. One recommendation is if the person is distracting the attention of an official away from match duties, it is time for a sanction.
- ✓ When the first referee assesses an individual sanction, it must be accompanied by a whistle.

A NYSVCOA official will not remove a disqualified team member from the playing surface or spectator areas. Sanctions will be assessed to the head coach for any further disruptions caused by a disqualified player.

## **Rule 7: Players' Equipment**

An individual may have a different number when changing from a team uniform shirt to a Libero shirt. A Libero shirt may not be passed among teammates. The style and trim of the libero's jersey/ shirt and/or shorts may differ from his/her teammates. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.

It is not required that either the libero or his/her teammates wear a solid color jersey.

It is not required that Piping/trim measure a certain width or be along a functioning seam.

There are no specifications regarding school mascot or school reference.

Uniform numbers must be visible and distinguishable.

Jewelry is not permitted at any time including the warm-up period. This includes "non-visible" jewelry (i.e. body jewelry, ear gauges, tongue studs). Hair ties worn on the wrist and string bracelets are considered jewelry. Taping jewelry is not permitted at any time.

- ✓ A player wearing visible jewelry should be asked politely to remove it. Prompt removal of jewelry is required.
- ✓ A player with taped (alleged) jewelry should be questioned in the presence of the head coach.
- ✓ A player on the court with jewelry will result in a team delay sanction. Prompt removal of jewelry is required.

The only type barrette that is legal is a "flexible" barrette.

Feathers or extensions worn in the hair must be legally secured.

Hard plastic headbands are illegal.

Spacers/gauges worn in the ear or lobes are illegal.

When a question arises regarding the legality of head gear or players' equipment beyond the scope of the rules book, check with NYSCVOA rules interpreter for a clarification.

Illegal uniform issues will be handled following the steps below. The Libero uniform is exempt from this modification.

- ✓ Notify the coach of the team at fault to determine whether the uniform can be brought into compliance. The team will legalize the uniform of the team member.
- ✓ If the uniform can not be legalized, discuss with the opposing coach to determine whether a protest will be filed.
- ✓ If no protest is filed at the time of the discussion, no future protest will be accepted in regards to uniform compliance.
- ✓ If the coach wishes to protest, record the events per the rule book. Play the match and notify the proper channels regarding the protest. Check local board policy.

## **Rule 8: Scoring and Duration of Matches**

All sets of the match are 25 point sets. A team must win by two and no cap is in effect for any set.

## **Rule 9: Protocols**

The pre-match protocol will start with the team representatives meeting for ground rules and coin toss. The clock for the warm-up period will not begin until the team representatives are released. Check local board policy for the total time to be set on the clock. Shared court time is first. The visiting team will have the first 6 minutes of exclusive court use and the home team will have their 6 minutes. The clock should run **continuously** stopping only for injury, safety issues, or equipment failure.

The team that does not have exclusive use of the court will be allowed to warm-up as long as they remain 2 meters away from the court boundaries and they do not interfere with the team that has exclusive use of the court.

Teams will switch sides when one team reaches 13 points in the deciding set.

## **Rule 10:**

The coach must initial the first set of the line up sheet. Coaches must be designated on the line up sheet for the first set of the match.

The second referee will indicate the captain with an open hand. The captain will acknowledge the first referee and the first referee will acknowledge the captain in a professional manner.

## **Rule 11: Game Interruptions**

The length of all timeouts in a match will be 60 seconds.

- ✓ The second referee will notify the coach when the second time out has been issued for the set. It is not necessary to use signal 14 (time out) when relaying this information to the coach.

The number of team substitutions will be 18. The procedure for authorizing a substitute on to the court is as follows.

- ✓ After whistling and signaling for a substitution the second referee will step back towards the score table in such a manner as to allow the scorekeeper to visualize the players entering and leaving the court. The second referee should remain square to the court during this procedure.
- ✓ The second referee will relay the numbers to the scorekeeper, stating the player's number entering the court first followed by the player leaving.
- ✓ After using the authorization for entry signal, the second referee will ensure the scorekeeper is ready to resume play, scan both benches for additional requests, assume the base position for the next rally and then release the court (using the appropriate hand signal) back to the first referee.
- ✓ The first referee will mimic the second referee's substitution signal, no whistle by the first referee is necessary.

The second referee will notify the first referee upon completion of the eighteenth substitution.

The second referee will notify the coach when the fifteenth through eighteenth substitutions are used. The coach may not protest if the information is not provided.

- ✓ It is not necessary to use signal 15 (substitution) when relaying this information to the coach or first referee.

Distinct whistles are used when acknowledging/granting a legal game interruption. For instance 2 short whistle blasts for substitution and time out. Several short whistle blasts for a player/court safety issue.

## **Rule 12: The Libero Player**

A Libero shirt may not be passed among teammates. The style and trim of the libero's jersey/ shirt and/or shorts may differ from his/her teammates. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.

It is required the libero jersey be immediately recognized from all angles and must be distinct from other members of the team.

## **Rule 15: Play at the Net**

The center line rule for all NYSPHSAA Men's interscholastic competition is as follows:

- ✓ To touch the opponent's court with a foot (feet) or hand(s) is permitted, provided that some part of the penetrating foot (feet) or hand(s) remains either in contact with or directly above the center line.
- ✓ To contact the opponent's court with any other part of the body is forbidden.
- ✓ A player may enter the opponent's court after the ball goes out of play.

The above rule is for Men's play only, the Women play by the current NCAA rule.

## **Rule 18: Officials and Their Duties**

Officials should arrive 30 minutes before the start of the match for regular season play. Officials are requested to arrive 40 minutes before match time for post-season play.

- ✓ Discuss exit strategy for when the match is completed.
- ✓ Locate the site supervisor for potential match issues.
- ✓ Introduce your self to the score table crew and lines judges and instruct them accordingly, using concrete examples of various set situations.
- ✓ The referees will monitor warm-up activities court side near the score table.
- ✓ The referees will monitor player safety and ensure proper protocol is being followed during the warm-up period.
- ✓ Discuss ball handling parameters, sanction requests and any other potential match situations.



- ✓ Know the setters and primary passers for the teams involved and discuss with partner possible violations in rotation order (overlaps).
- ✓ The second referee will conduct the deciding game coin toss. If a team selects the other side of the court, the second referee communicated this to the first referee. The first referee will whistle and give the change of courts signal.
- ✓ The first referee will whistle and give the change of court signal for all non deciding sets played in a match.
- ✓ When the first referee assesses an individual sanction, it must be accompanied by a whistle.

Once the match officials are courtside, only approved NYSCVOA apparel is acceptable.

The second referee (R2) will use the lineup sheets submitted by the teams to verify the players' numbers are correctly recorded on the score sheet. The R2 will communicate with the scorekeeper and verify player positions on the court prior to each set. A Libero replacement can not be made until the starting players are verified.

- ✓ The R2 will read the numbers of the players on the court to the scorekeeper while standing near the score table.
- ✓ The scorekeeper will read the numbers of the players on the score sheet to the R2 while standing near the score table.

The line up sheets once submitted and recorded are to remain at the score table for the duration of each set.

The line up sheet must be signed / initialed by the coach for the first set of the match. It is not required for sets two through five.

Once play has begun, the score sheet must be used for all line up check requests by coaches or captains.

When a net fault is whistled by the R2, he or she will move to the fault side of the net, indicate the nature of the fault and the player's number (if necessary) to the R1. The R1 indicates the result of the play (point or replay) and then repeats the player's number to the bench. The R2 mimics the result of the play signal.

When the First Referee whistles to stop a play, it is not necessary for the R2 to move to the fault side of the net. It is required to be fully visible to the R1 and have shoulders square to the court at the end of a rally.

The R2 will use the “ready signal” to begin the set and after any Game Interruptions (time out, substitution). It may also be used after scorekeeper issues or for prolonged delays.

- ✓ The ready signal is the outside net hand perpendicular to the floor raised shoulder height with the thumb touching the top of hand.
- ✓ The ready signal is not to be used after every rally.

The R1 will whistle warning whistles (for time out or interval between sets) for the R2 when the R2 is occupied and unable to do so.

The head coach will be notified when the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Team substitutions are taken.

- ✓ The second referee will indicate number of team substitutions taken to the coach. It is not necessary to use signal 15 (substitution) when relaying this information to the coach.
- ✓ Do not chase the coach to relay team substitution information as it delays resumption of the contest.
- ✓ The second referee will indicate when the 18<sup>th</sup> team substitution has been used to the first referee. It is not necessary to use signal 15 (substitution) when relaying this information to the first referee.
- ✓ The second referee will release the court by using the “ready signal” after scanning the benches and getting in base position for the next rally: On the defensive side with shoulder and body square to the court.

The head coach will be notified when the second Team time out has been taken.

- ✓ The second referee will notify the coach when the second time out has been issued for the set. It is not necessary to use signal 14 (time out) when relaying this information to the coach.

The second referee will use signal 13a (end of set or match) when appropriate.

The Assistant Scorer (Libero Tracker) will use the NYSCVOA Libero Tracking Sheet for monitoring all substitutions, and Libero replacements. The tracker will assist the scorekeeper as necessary.

The Scorer or Libero Tracker will verbally verify to the R2 the status (on or off the court) of each team’s libero during a time out.

The correct score sheet procedure for replacing a uniform that is damaged or saturated with blood is to cross out the old number with an “X” on the score sheet and record the new number next to it. Record the reason for the number change in the comment section of the score sheet.

The visiting team may provide a scorer and Libero Tracker and they will be allowed to sit at the score table. The home team’s score book will be the official record.

Referees can make corrections to the score sheet/score when the first or second referee is able to reconstruct the events that took place that resulted in the score keeper’s error.

A protest must be requested by a coach or captain if the first or second referee is to use any other match information from statisticians, visiting score book, coaches, etc., (Rule 17.2.2.5) in regards to correcting any errors to the official (home) score sheet/score.