



2017 Volleyball Information

Rules Changes, Comments, Points of Emphasis, Editorial Changes, Interpretations

2017 Rules Changes

5-5-3b (12): Outlines mechanics for the second referee to sound a warning whistle at 45 seconds or any other time when both teams take the court ready to play before the audio signal (horn) is sounded at 60 seconds. Clarifies all time-outs are officially ended with the audio signal (horn).

Rationale: The defining end of a time-out shall be the horn and the warning of the impending end of the time-out is the second referee's whistle at 45 seconds or at any other time when both teams take the court ready to play before the audio horn is sounded at 60 seconds.

5-4-3c (17): On a time-out, the first referee shall whistle the warning if the second referee is still checking the scoresheet.

Rationale: A procedure is needed for the sounding of the warning whistle should the second referee still be involved with checking the scoresheet.

5-8-3a: Outlines the new procedures for the timer to give the audio signal (horn) only to officially end a time-out and no longer for the warning at 45 seconds into the time-out.

Rationale: Clarifies that the audio signal (horn) shall only be sounded to indicate the official end of a time-out.

9-8-2 New: A replay, is considered, to be a part of a single play action. Therefore, once a replay has been called, by the first referee, no requests, e.g., time-out, service order, lineup, substitution, libero replacement, etc., may be recognized until after the rally is completed.

Rationale: A replay is a single action to repeat the start and completion of a rally that was interrupted under Rule 9-8-1. Clarifies when resuming play, all circumstances should be the same and no requests shall be recognized for, e.g. time-out, service order, lineup, substitution, libero replacement etc.

Officials Signals: Omit the illegal substitution signal (Signal # 20) as the penalty is Unnecessary Delay if attempting to enter the set and illegal alignment if observed in the set.

Rationale: The penalty for illegal substitution is "unnecessary delay--administrative yellow or red card;" there is no longer a need to have two penalty signals, illegal substitution and unnecessary delay.

Comments on the 2017 Rules Changes

5-5-3b (12), 5-5-3b (19), 5-4-3c (17), 5-8-3a: The defining end of a time-out shall be the audio signal (horn) administered by the official timer and the warning of the impending end of the time-out is administered by the second referee. For a time-out, the second referee whistles a warning at 45 seconds or at any other time when both teams take the court ready to play before the audio horn is sounded at 60 seconds. The second referee shall instruct the timer to sound the audio signal at 60 seconds or earlier if teams are on the court before the scheduled 60 seconds. The same procedure is followed for the timed interval between sets. The second referee whistles a two-minute, 45-second warning followed by the timer sounding the audio signal at three minutes. If an intermission is being used, the warning whistle is at four minutes, 45 seconds with the audio signal at five minutes.

9-8-2: A replay is a single action to repeat the start and completion of a rally that was interrupted under Rule 9-8-1. When resuming play, all circumstances should be the same and no requests shall be recognized for time-out, service order, lineup, substitution, libero replacement, etc. This application of the rule for a replay provides for a reasonable resumption of play with circumstances being the same as they were when play was interrupted.

Deletion of Illegal Substitution Signal: The penalty for illegal substitution is "unnecessary delay – administrative yellow or red card." There is no need to require the referee to execute two penalty signals – illegal substitution and unnecessary delay – for the same violation of "unnecessary delay." This eliminates a duplicate action by the referee for the same violation.

2017 Points of Emphasis

Conduct and Privileges of Assistant Coaches: The assistant coach has fewer privileges than the head coach. The assistant coach may only stand to ask the second referee, during a dead-ball situation, to review the accuracy of the score, verify the number of time-outs used, request the serving order of his/her team or to verify the proper server for the opponent. He/she does not have the privilege to address the referees on other matters. The assistant coach may also stand at the bench to greet a replaced player, confer with players during time-outs, spontaneously react to an outstanding play by a player(s) of his/her own team, and attend to an injured player with permission of a referee. The assistant coach does not have the privilege to stand at the bench area during play. An assistant coach who tries to engage the second referee in discussion regarding a ruling is inappropriate and may result in a card. Likewise, an assistant coach who continues to

stand and lingers once play has resumed is inappropriate and may result in a card. It is important that the second referee sets the boundaries for assistant coaches based on the rules from the onset. Preventive officiating will allow the second referee to professionally address the assistant coach in a manner to guide the coach to follow the spirit of the rules, avoid rushing to a penalty and maintain administrative order in the match as intended.

Court Boundary Lines and Attack Lines: The NFHS Volleyball Rules Book is very specific regarding the dimensions, colors, etc. of the court boundary lines, center line and attack lines. These rules should be reviewed prior to any new logos, decals or painting of court surfaces. Rule 2, Section 1, Articles 2-5, specifically address the center line and the attack line, and should be closely reviewed by school administrators, athletic administrators, coaches and contractors. As noted in Rule 2-1-4, a shadow-line is permissible for only the center line. A shadow-line is not permitted for the attack line or boundary line. The attack line and all boundary lines shall be a solid line, free of shadowing and in contrast to the surrounding court.

Second Referees Responsibilities on a Third Time-out Request: As Rule 5-5-3-11 states, it is a responsibility of the second referee to "grant time-outs." Rule 11-2-3 specifies the number of time-outs: "two time-outs per set." If a third time-out is requested by a coach, it is suggested the second referee use proactive officiating to let the coach know he/she does not have a time-out remaining. This can be done with a gentle shake of the head or a quick question, "Coach you want to request a third time-out." If the coach persists in his/her request for the third time-out, the second referee shall recognize the time-out request and access an unnecessary delay. The play must resume immediately as the requesting team has no time-outs. Coaches attempting to use the third time-out and unnecessary delay to break momentum of the opposing team are violating the spirit of the rule. Increased instances of this violation of spirit of the rules may contribute to a review of the penalty for requesting a third time-out. It is recommended that coaches use bench personnel and bookkeepers to keep them informed of the number of time-outs used.

Letters of Authorization: Authorization is required from the state association for any special accommodation for an individual player, a memorial patch on the uniform or any other special circumstance not specifically covered in the rules. It is the responsibility of the school coach to contact the appropriate staff of the state association to seek the authorization following the established procedure set forth by the respective state association. Appropriate support material and early contact by the school to the state association is expected and prevents confusion when a player shows up and is not in compliance with the rules and not permitted to play by the game officials. It is NOT the responsibility of the officials to seek the authorization. It IS the

responsibility of the coach to obtain the authorization before the contest and to present such authorization to the officials prior to the start of the match.

Mechanics of Signals and Communication: The proper execution of the mechanics of signals and position of the second referee and line judges are critical elements of the responsibilities of the officiating crew. The quality of the signal mechanics is the major means of communication between referees, officiating crew, coaches, spectators and media. A one, two, three approach to the signal will assist officials when signaling and meeting the responsibility of good communication. One is the proper signal with attention to how it looks. A sharp signal communicates confidence in the call and clearly indicates the result of the play. Two is to hold the signal long enough that the officiating crew is aware of the signal, the table officials know the call and can accurately record play results and coaches, fans and media are able to keep up with the play action. Three is a release of a signal and confirming with necessary members of the officiating crew that the action has been properly attended to such as substitution, request of a time-out or turning the set back to the first referee to the next serve. Sloppy or lazy mechanics will create confusion of the result of play action and could lead to a coach getting upset unnecessarily. Poor positioning will place the second referee or line judges in a location that inhibits their ability to make correct calls. Signals are the universal language for the officials. Your communication depends on them.

2017 Major Editorial Changes

2-1-5: Clarifies the language regarding the attack line shall be solid and one clearly visible color.

5-2-1b: Clarifies when the second referee will indicate both the nature of the fault and the number of the player committing the net fault.

2017 Editorial Changes

4-1 Penalty 3, 4-2 Penalty 2, 10-3-3, 11-2 Penalties 1 and 2, Sample Sets



2017-18 NFHS VOLLEYBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

Robert B. Gardner, Publisher, NFHS Publications © 2017

2017-18 NFHS Volleyball Rules Book

Corrections: (Underlining shows additions; ~~strike through~~ shows deletions.)
Page 52, 2017 Points of Emphasis: "The assistant coach may also stand at the bench to ~~great greet~~ a replaced player..."

2017-18 NFHS Volleyball Case Book and Officials Manual Corrections:

Page 8, 2.3.1 SITUATION D: Team R's second contact: (a) lands in the bleachers on Team ~~SR~~'s side of the net;...;
Page 28, 7.1.4 SITUATION A: Prior to the second set,...(b) ~~two minutes~~ 30 seconds remaining...; **Page 77:** ... After the set score has been confirmed, the second referee gives the end-of-set signal (No. ~~23~~ 22) to the first referee....

2017-18 NFHS Volleyball PowerPoint

Corrections: Slide #24: The words "if necessary" have been ~~deleted and replaced with moved~~ and ~~replaced with "for the net fault"~~ the words "committing the net fault" inserted.

SITUATION 1: Team S's libero, who is wearing a solid-colored gold jersey, becomes injured and cannot continue to play. The coach redesignates a legal player on the bench as libero for the remainder of the set for the injured libero. The redesignated libero is wearing a solid-colored green jersey with a unique number (not worn by any teammate). The teammates are wearing white jerseys. The referee allows the redesignated libero to play.
RULING: The referee's decision is correct. The redesignated libero must wear a uniform jersey that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct

from the other numbers of the team. It does not have to be the same color as the original (injured) libero. (4-2-2)

SITUATION 2: During a set, the second referee utilizes one or more techniques of preventive officiating, none of which delay the resumption of play but merely keep the play moving and avoid unneeded penalties. **RULING:** Preventive officiating should be used. However, guidance as to how much is considered appropriate and even in what areas of the rules preventive officiating is acceptable should be provided through the respective state association. (5-1-2, Officials Manual)

SITUATION 3: The first referee whistles to interrupt play due to an injury and signals replay. The injured player is a position player. The first referee follows the regular injury protocol, which could allow for a time-out for assessment and treatment/recovery of the injured player and/or a substitution only for the injured player could be made. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** An injury to a player creates an exception to the replay rule. The rule is not intended to disadvantage a team due to an injury. (9-8-2, 11-4)

SITUATION 4: The first referee whistles to interrupt play due to an injury and signals replay. The injured player is the libero. The first referee follows the regular injury protocol for time-out to assess and treat/allow recovery of the injured player. a) The libero may be replaced by the player for whom the libero had replaced. b) Once the legal replacement has entered the set, the coach may now request and be granted a substitute for that player.

RULING: a) Correct procedure; b) incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The rule does not permit a substitution during a replay. However, if there is an injury that interrupts play, an exception is made by the first referee for only the injured player. (9-8-2, 11-4)

SITUATION 5: The first referee whistles to interrupt play due to an injury and signals replay. The first referee follows the regular injury protocol, which could permit a time-out for assessment and treatment/recovery of the injured player and/or a substitution only for the injured player, if a position player, and legal replacement for an injured libero. During this same interruption of play and before the first referee has signaled for serve, the head coach of the team with the injured player requests a substitution for another player who is not injured. The substitution is denied. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The only exception to permit a legal substitution or legal replacement on a replay is for the injured player involved. (9-8-2, 11-4)

SITUATION 6: The first referee has whistled to interrupt play and signals a replay due to an injured player. The head coach, while assessing the injured player, wants to have a check of his/her service order. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** No request for a time-out, service order, lineup, substitution, libero replacement, etc. may be recognized on a replay until after the rally is completed. The only exception is due to the injury of a player and play is interrupted by the first referee under Rule 11-4. (9-8-2, 11-4)