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TO: Athletic Directors, Volleyball Coaches and Volleyball Commissioners
FROM: Cindy Simmons, Assistant Executive Director
SUBJECT: **OSAA VOLLEYBALL - COLLECTIVE BLOCK INTERPRETATIONS**

The new NFHS clarification of a block is defined as "the action of a player close to the net that deflects the ball coming from the opponent by reaching higher than the top of the net." (Rule 9-5-1c, page 34, 2006-07 NFHS Volleyball Rules Book).

If an individual player blocking alone contacts the ball below the height of the net it is considered the TEAM'S FIRST CONTACT and not a block.

1. A block attempt is the action of blocking without touching the ball. (A libero is the only player who will be penalized if they attempt a block. Rule 9-5-6)
2. A completed block is when the ball is touched by a blocker. Only front row players are permitted to complete a block.
3. A collective block is a block executed by more than one blocker in close proximity (meaning the players are lined up side by side in blocking formation). It is considered complete when any one of the blockers in the "collection" touches the ball. It is a blocking fault if a back-row player or libero participates in a completed block.

An issue has arisen concerning the different blockers involved in the "collective block" and where their hands are in relation to the height of the net. Please review the following interpretations.

Situation A: Two girls go up side by side to block, both hands above the top of the net. They are both front row players and if either girl touches the ball it is considered completed and the team has 3 hits remaining.

Situation B: Two girls go up side by side to block, both hands above the top of the net. One is a back row player. If either girl touches the ball, the call is back row blocking because the back row player participated in a completed block.

Situation C: Two girls go up side by side to block, both are in blocking formation, both front row players. One girl has her hands above the top of the net, the other has her hands below the top of the net (due to a mistimed jump, her height, etc. the reason doesn't matter). The block is considered "collective" because both girls participated in the blocking formation and either one touched the ball, making it a completed block. Play continues, 3 hits remaining. This would also apply to a triple block.

Situation D: Two girls go up side by side to block, both are in blocking formation, one is front row, one is back row. One girl (doesn't matter whether it is the front row or back row player) has her hands above the top of the net, the other's hands are below the top of the net. The block is still considered "collective" because both girls participated in the blocking formation. Either girl touches the ball. The call is now back row blocking. This would also be the case in a triple block.