

As the third week of the season approaches, I would like to give a big shout out to the amazing student/athletes we have in our state. The level of play has increased in just two weeks, and this makes for very exciting volleyball across the state. This would not be possible without the dedication of our hardworking coaching staffs. As officials we salute all the time and effort that you put in daily to help your student/athletes grow. Below are questions from this past week, an officiating mechanic of the week, information from the NFHS Early Season zoom meeting, and "points to ponder". Remember to get your Post-Season forms to Lana, along with any Good Sportsmanship or Rookie of the Week nominations.

Thanks for ALL that you do--"It Takes a Village!"
Kathy Hamer-Smith

Questions

1. Does the NFHS have a Pursuit Rule? (NO)--it is only legal if the ball is contacted before it breaks the plane of the net. The player may then cross the extension of the center line outside the court provided there is no interference with the opposing team's ability to play the ball. They may also return under the net, in the center line extended area outside the court, as long as there is no interference. (Case Book pages 37-38 9.5.8 b&c)
2. Is it legal for the back row player to go up for a single block? (Yes) A back row player has not committed a fault unless contact occurs and there is a completed block. If they jump to block and don't touch the ball it is legal.
3. Is it legal for a back row player to participate in a collective block (more than one player)? (Yes), as long as no player involved in the block touches the ball. If any blocking player touches it, and the back row player doesn't, it is still illegal for the back row player since they were involved in a successful collective blocking attempt. If no players touch the ball, it is not a blocking fault.
4. If the home management chooses not to switch benches, is it legal to switch during the deciding set? (NO).. Once it has been determined to not switch it must be carried out to the conclusion of the match.
5. What are the coin flip options for the deciding set? Scenario #1 (teams switch benches) they get to choose serve, receive, or side. Scenario #2 (teams don't switch benches) they would get to decide serve or receive.

Mechanic to Spotlight for the Week

1. R1 mirrors the R2's signal for time-out and substitutions (Rule Book page 24 #6)

NFHS Early Season Zoom Information

1. Undergarment clarification--
 - Tops--any visible garment (t-shirt, body suits and other similar garments) worn underneath the top that is not an unadorned single, color similar to the predominant color can be solid black, white or gray. All team members, other than the libero, must wear the same color undershirt. This does not mean that all players must all wear an undergarment under their shirt. (Example: if one teammate wears a black undergarment then another player can't wear a white undergarment--they must be the same color for each player)
 - Bottoms--if not the predominant color of the uniform shorts, they can be solid black, white, or gray and may extend below the uniform bottom. All team members, other than the libero, must wear the same color undergarment. All team members don't have to wear an undergarment under their shorts.
 - The undergarments under the top and bottom don't have to be the same color. (Example: Players can have on a white undergarment under their top and a black undergarment under their shorts--however, they must be the same-colored undergarments for each player).

- Compression sleeves--can be any color or design, and they can have the thumb hole in them that causes them to extend over the hand. Players don't have to be alike as these are in the same category as knee pads, socks, and shoes. They may be padded.
- Skid gloves--worn over the hand (usually with part of the fingers exposed) to protect the palm of the hand when diving for a ball are legal.

Points to Ponder

1. Situation: A player from Team S, attempting to save a ball, that is outside the boundary of the court in a playable area, steps across the extension of the center line to play a ball which has (a) partially crossed the vertical plane of the net extended; (b) completely crossed the vertical plane of the net extended. Ruling: (a) legal, (b) out-of-bounds loss of rally/point. Case Book page 38 9.5.8 c
2. Situation: The RB on Team S who is close to the net and in the vicinity of the ball: (a) fakes an attack; (b) attempts to block. Ruling: (a) and (b) both legal. Comment: An attempt to block is only a fault for the libero. Case Book page 37 9.5.5.b