

August 1, 2010

To: Oregon Volleyball Officials
From: Debi Hanson, OSAA Volleyball State Rules Interpreter

Please note the following:

- 1) There seems to be a lot of misinterpretation on the issue of rolling and especially about rolls vs. spins off the overhead pass. Please read the following information carefully and be sure you are clear on this.
 - Casebook/Section H/Page 76 (6th paragraph) – “Rolling is considered an illegal hit because there is continued and steady contact of the ball with the player’s body.”
 - Continues . . . “The referee must determine if the ball was rolling or making a series of bounces which is legal on the team’s first contact.”
 - Pg 77 #2 – “The referee should not permit the ball to roll up or down the arm(s).”
 - Pg 80-81 #11 – Receiving with the overhead pass – “... watch for this type of reception rolling back off one or both hands. Be sure you actually see prolonged contact on the serve reception before you call an illegal hit.
 - Gloria Cox shared at the 2009 Clinic that if a ball flies through the hands of a player trying to take a first ball over with an overhand pass to let it go. The ball was traveling too fast for an official to see prolonged contact.

Comment: Did the ball roll from palm to tips of fingers and off? This should be considered prolonged contact because of the time it spent **visibly** rolling off the entire length of the hand. This by NFHS ruling is considered an illegal hit.

- 2) Casebook pg 77 #10 - A ball which spins off the **first pad of the fingers** is probably legal.
 - Note “first pad of the fingers”. Due to the speed and nature of the game, it is ALMOST visually impossible to see a ball roll or spin off a girl’s fingers. As the casebook states this is PROBABALY legal.
 - Spin is NEVER a determining factor in calling ball handling.

Comment: If a ball rolls off a hand (palm to finger tips) you will probably have a prolonged contact/rolling violation. If the ball rolls or spins off the fingers only, it will most likely be legal.

The Key Always – Only Call What You See!!!

Please read the note below that I received from NFHS:

The high school rules allow for multiple contacts (more than one contact by a player during one attempt to play the ball) when it is the first ball over the net in one attempt to block or on any first team hit. The multiple contact does not allow for a ball to visibly come to rest or involve prolonged contact with a player’s body.

Ball handling calls must be made based upon what the referee observes in context with the rules. If the referee observes the ball coming to rest or prolonged contact then make the call. If not observed or uncertain then play on. Techniques of playing the ball are not the key to legal or illegal although poor technique can certainly tip the referee off to just be vigilant. The only gray area is perhaps the individual official’s judgment. Regardless of how hard we all strive for consistency there is always the human factor involved.

The NFHS has not issued any statement about ball handling or directive that deviates from the rules book. Unlike the NCAA, the NFHS has not subscribed to the ball-handling directive issued regarding the very athletic play etc.

If you have any questions please have your Commissioner or Trainer contact me. Thank you!

***I’ve attached the OSAA memo below concerning ball handling. This memo will be sent to all volleyball schools before the start of the season.

To: Head Volleyball Coaches
From: Cindy Simmons, OSAA Assistant Executive Director
Debi Hanson, OSAA Volleyball State Rules Interpreter
Subject: Updated NFHS Ball-Handling Information
Date: August 1, 2010

Ball handling calls are some of the toughest to make due to the fact the rules in NFHS are different than that of other volleyball organizations. Officials in the state of Oregon are working to be more consistent in this area. Please read the NFHS Case Book guidelines below to see what is being taught statewide.

[2010-2011 NFHS VOLLEYBALL CASE BOOK AND MANUAL – PART 3, SECTION H, PAGES 76-81](#)
[Guidelines for Determining Ball-Handling Violations \(excerpts\)](#)

Legal Hit: Contact with the player's body that does not allow the ball to visibly come to rest, or have prolonged contact with a player.

Criteria officials should consider each time a ball is contacted:

- a. Did the contact result in a lifting, pushing, holding, throwing, rolling, or carrying action?
- b. Did the ball change direction by holding or guiding it during contact?
- c. Did the player carry the ball across the plane of her body?
- d. Was it a roll or spin?
- e. Did the ball visibly come to rest or have prolonged contact?
- f. Was the ball over-controlled?

Only Criteria – Vision

Not sound; Not unusual body position; Not unusual flight of the ball

Double Hit: A player illegally contacts the ball twice in succession. It can be either two attempts in succession or the ball rebounding from one part of the body to one or more other parts on a single attempt to play the ball (except on the first team hit or a block).

Tips on how to judge ball-handling:

- The ball should never be allowed to roll. Rolling is considered an illegal hit because there is continued and steady contact of the ball with the player's body.
- On a two-hand set or overhand pass the hands must contact the ball simultaneously, except on the team's first hit.
- No prolonged contact should take place on a tip or block. A good rule of thumb to watch for is did the player try to change the direction of the ball by holding or guiding it during contact.
- A palms-open hit is not necessarily illegal.
- It is illegal if a player carries the ball across the plane of her body.
- A spinning ball off the first pad of fingers is probably legal. Due to the speed of the game it is almost visually impossible to see a ball roll or spin off a girl's fingers. SPIN is NEVER a factor in calling ball handling. A ball rolling off a hand (palm to fingertips) is probably prolonged but it must be visibly seen.
- Continued or steady contact or a steady force results in an illegal hit.
- If a ball flies through the hands of a player trying to take a first ball over with an overhand pass, let it go, it was too fast to see the prolonged contact.

Good volleyball is about excellence of skills. An official's job is to enforce the rules and guidelines to ensure that athletes are given an equal opportunity to play to the best of their abilities. Be fair, be consistent, and follow the rules. Ball handling is about constant, consistent judgment calls.

Ball handling will continue to be a controversial subject in volleyball because of its nature as a judgment call. Educating officials on this issue will continue as officials strive to be consistent both as individuals and with other officials statewide.