



2011-12 VOLLEYBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Officials Platform – As listed in Rule 3-1-6, a safe, stable platform, which elevates the first referee's head to between 2 and 3 feet above the top of the net, is required. Step ladders, jump boxes and other devices not specifically designed as referee platforms should not be used. It is recommended that the top of the platform be at least 18 inches long by 12 inches wide and steps up to the platform be provided. It also is recommended that the platform height be adjustable to accommodate the varying heights of officials. The front and sides of the officials' platform must be padded to a minimum height of 5½ feet with at least a 1-inch-thick resilient, shock-absorbing material (such as polyethylene foam) in accordance with Rule 3-1-3a. If the referee's platform is not padded according to the rules, the match shall not be played and the state association notified of the padding problem. The first referee is not expected to work from a platform that is not safe, stable and properly padded. When ordering a new officials' platform, please consider the following: proper padding, adjustable height, a width meeting the minimum recommendations, steps that allow for easy access to the platform, and a well-cushioned standing surface. Just as equipment has been improved in all sports, this holds true with volleyball officials' platforms. Match officials are dependent upon schools to provide quality equipment so they can carry out their responsibilities in an environment free of unnecessary risk of injury.

2. Libero Uniforms Clearly Recognizable – As stated in Rule 4-2-2, the libero shall wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team. The primary color of the libero's uniform top must be different from any color that appears on more than 25 percent of the body of teammates' uniform tops. In determining the body of the uniforms, the sleeves and collar should be ignored. The style and trim of the libero's uniform top may differ from teammates' uniforms, but the shorts must be like-colored to teammates. Consider the hue and saturation of the uniform (including side panels) to determine if the uniform is immediately recognized from all angles from a distance. For example, if a team wears a uniform with a dark purple back and white front, a black libero uniform would not be a distinct contrast from the back of the players' jerseys and is, therefore, not easily recognizable from all angles. When ordering a libero uniform, all factors shall be considered to ensure a distinct contrast from the uniform of teammates.

3. Host School Shall Coordinate Assistant Officials – According to Rule 5-1-1, assistant officials include scorer, libero tracker, timer, and line judges. The host school is responsible for ensuring that all assistant official positions are covered with trained personnel prior to the match. State association policy may exist on how assistant official positions are covered.

It is then the host school's responsibility to ensure that these positions are covered accordingly. This may include prematch arrangements with the visiting school(s). In all cases, assistant officials shall be properly trained before being assigned to one of these duties. The match officials have a prematch responsibility to review the duties with the assistant officials. It is not the responsibility of the match officials to train the assistant officials. Each member of the officiating crew has specific responsibilities. Without proper training, the assistant officials may not carry out their responsibilities and thus have a negative impact on the match ranging from confusion to the wrong team scoring points.

4. Suspended Net Systems – Several gymnasiums across the country are utilizing a suspended net system for interscholastic volleyball. These systems are attached to the ceiling and are unfolded toward the floor. There are several styles in these systems. Rule 2-2-2 states "Cables, which are used to retract a ceiling-suspended net system and located only on one side of the net, are playable overhead obstructions." A system also having poles on one side of the net used to retract the system are also considered playable overhead obstructions. The standards, if extended to the ceiling, are considered an extension of the floor standard and the ball is out of bounds and becomes dead if it touches the net supports on these vertical extensions. It is important the referee's platform be stable when using a ceiling suspended system.

