



2016 Volleyball Rules Changes, Points of Emphasis, Interpretations

RULES CHANGES

Rule 1-2-2

The time period between sets is defined as a part of a match and delineates the difference between the timed interval and timed intermission.

Rationale: Defines a required part of a match and draws distinction between the timed interval and an intermission.

Rule 3-2-1

The panels of the volleyball are defined as being of a basic rectangular shape.

Rationale: Clarifies the original intent of the standard shape of the panels of the volleyball.

Rule 4-1-5

Hair devices worn in the hair or on the head shall be no more than 3 inches in width.

Rationale: This rule limits the size and material of what a player may wear in the hair or on the head to preserve the integrity of the sport and risk minimization concerns. Permitting an item 3 inches in width allows for a more practical size and retains the original purpose of the rule.

Rule 5-4-1h

Establishes a new mechanic, double whistle and raising coin in the air, for the first referee to use to summon the captains and head coaches to the officials table to conduct the pre-match conference.

Rationale: This signal (double whistle and raised coin) will notify those required that it is time to attend the pre-match conference at the officials table. This will eliminate the need to track down those required to attend the conference. This signal is consistent with the mechanic for the deciding set coin toss.

Rule 7-1-2

Clarifies when the lineup is due from each team for the next set when an intermission is used between sets Nos. 2 and 3.

Rationale: Provides consistency as to the time for submission of the lineup for set Nos. 2 and beyond regardless of whether an intermission or standard timed interval is in use.

Rule 7-1-4

Reorganizes Article 4 and provides two options to correct a clerical error on the lineup when a player's number is listed twice, including if one is the libero.

Rationale: Clarifies the two exceptions to the requirement of submitting a written, accurate lineup before each set and the procedure to correct the clerical errors. The libero is now included as a possible option to correct the clerical error of listing a player's number twice.

Rule 8-1-6

A tossed ball for serve contacting a backboard in a vertical position is a fault.

Rationale: The server is responsible to assume a position not located under an obstruction.

Rule 11-2, Penalty 2

A request for a third time-out is an unnecessary delay and penalized accordingly.

Rationale: Provides consistency in application of unnecessary delay penalties for request of a third or more time-outs regardless of whether request acknowledged by the second referee with a whistle and time-out signal.

Rule 11-5-1

Clarifies the timed intermission between set Nos. 2 and 3 may only be scheduled for use for promotional or special recognition activities.

Rationale: Clarifies that an intermission is used for promotional or special recognition activities but not for just an extended timed interval between set Nos. 2 and 3.

MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

4-1 Penalty 2

Clarifies the language regarding an unnecessary delay penalty, administrative yellow or administrative red card, for a player wearing illegal equipment attempting to enter the set.

4-1 Penalty 3

Clarity in wording of the penalty and with the adoption of the new penalty for unnecessary delay last year the modification corrects a clerical error.

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. **Intermission Reminders** – An intermission, as defined in Rules 1-2-2 and 11-5-1, may only be scheduled if there are to be promotional or recognition activities. An intermission may not be scheduled simply to extend the length of the timed interval between sets Nos. 2 and 3 in a 3 of 5 match format. (Sets Nos. 1 and 2 in a 2 of 3 match format) Host management should inform officials as well as the coach of the opposing team in advance when an intermission is scheduled. This allows all parties to be prepared for the extended time between sets. It is important that both teams return to the court by the end of the intermission. An unnecessary delay is assessed a team that does not return to the court by the close of the intermission. It is the responsibility of each coach to manage his/her team to have them in place at the end of the intermission.
2. **Implementation of Solid-Colored Uniform Top** – The wearing of a solid-colored uniform top by either the libero or teammates (or both when contrasting colors) is required as of July 1, 2016. Rule 4-2-2 outlines the specific requirements for the solid-colored uniform top. Coaches should go through these rules thoroughly before ordering uniforms for the 2016 season and beyond. Although

good intentions, the vendor sales representative may not be clear on the uniform requirements. Therefore, the coach must fulfill his/her responsibility of having all players in legal uniforms. If the uniform is using sublimation, for the solid-colored jersey the sublimation for trim or accent MUST still be located on a functioning seam. Placement of numbers is also critical as they are now many times placed on the uniform by sublimation. Questions on the solid-colored uniform top should be directed to the respective state association. There is also information with graphics located on the NFHS web site. (www.nfhs.org, Activities & Sports, Volleyball)

3. **Improving Communication between the Second Referee and Table Officials** – The second referee has the responsibility to communicate directly with the table officials; scorer, timer and libero tracker. Prior to the start of the match, the second referee should meet with the table officials and assess their level of experience, ask questions of how each person will carry out his/her responsibilities and how communication will occur. The second referee may need to guide each person through responsibilities so all are covered and the means for communication is clear. During the first set, the R2 should listen and observe how the table officials are carrying out their responsibilities as well as communication. If a modification is needed to assist in the flow and accuracy of the responsibilities from the table officials it should be addressed early in the match. The second referee is also the conduit or extension from the first referee to the table officials. It is important the second referee cover this during the prematch meeting. The second referee should not hesitate to confer with the scorer or tracker if there is a question about lineup, libero etc. that can be addressed during a dead ball. This good communication will avoid possible problems or an incorrect call by the second referee.
4. **Proper Use of Lineup Card** – Referees should be aware of any policy from the state association regarding the use of lineup cards. Some states require their use only for recording and checking the lineup. Several states require the use of the lineup card throughout the match keeping track of rotation and the service order, number of time-outs, libero, substitutions and perhaps other areas. The second referee should understand that maintaining the lineup card is not a function of duplicating the responsibilities of the scorer. When the second referee attempts to mirror most of what the scorer is recording the flow of play is unnecessarily slowed and the tempo of the set is interrupted. Likewise, maintaining excess information places the second referee in a possible position to spend too much time on record keeping and not maintaining proper focus on the play at hand. The second referee is not an extension of the table officials but is a part of the officiating crew with his/her partner, the first referee. The prematch meeting with the table officials is critical as the second referee will confirm in his/her own mind what is needed on the card, as the experience of the scorer may be a factor, to avoid a slowdown in play. For more information on proper use of the lineup card, refer to the NFHS Volleyball Officials Manual.
5. **Substitution Procedure During a Time-Out** – A substitution taking place when a team has called a time-out shall follow the standard substitution procedures. At the end of the time-out, the teams return to the court, the second referee checks each team's lineup and then the substitution(s) is recognized, recorded and with authorization from the second referee the substitute enters the court. Following Rule 10-2-5 will allow for a smooth flow to the resumption of play, accuracy in recording the substitution(s) and good communication on the change of players to the first referee, opposing team and fans.

RULES INTERPRETATIONS

SITUATION 1: The head coach of School A is considering purchasing uniforms that he/she wants to use as solid-colored jerseys and contacts the state association for confirmation of compliance before purchasing. The jerseys are a tone-on-tone combination using a camo design. **RULING:** The jerseys are not in compliance with the requirements of a solid-color uniform top due to the use of tone-on-tone; two tones are considered two colors.

COMMENT: This uniform top would be compliant as a standard jersey. (4-2-1,2)

SITUATION 2: The coach of School A contacts the state association staff to confirm that for the solid-colored jersey, he/she may have the mascot reference (tiger head) on the back of the uniform top in a space of 4 x 4 inches and have the mascot name, "TIGERS" on the front of the solid-colored jersey.

RULING: Compliant as a solid-color uniform top. (4-2-2)

SITUATION 3: The coach from Team S submits the lineup with No. 12 listed as both a starting position player and as the libero for the set. The second referee, in checking the lineup, notices the error. The second referee notifies the Team S coach and explains the options to correct this clerical error immediately before play begins. The coach decides to retain No. 12 as the position player and have a different player listed and become the libero for this set. Team S is charged with an unnecessary delay as a new libero was listed to correct the clerical error.

RULING: Incorrect procedure.

COMMENT: There is no unnecessary delay as this is considered an allowed correction of a clerical error. This is not considered a "redesignation" of the libero. (7-1-4)

SITUATION 4: A tossed ball for serve contacts a backboard or its supports hanging in a vertical position over the serving area. This is a service fault and the first referee signals an illegal hit, Signal #3. There is no re-serve.

RULING: Correct procedure.

COMMENT: This is considered as an illegal service during one team's term of service. (8-1-6, Officials Manual)

SITUATION 5: At what point does the penalty change from "unnecessary delay" to "illegal alignment" for an illegal replacement.

RULING: The penalty changes with the whistle and signal for serve; this is for the libero and replacement only. (10-4-1)