

To: All Athletic Directors, Volleyball Coaches and Volleyball Officials

From: Sally Marquez, Associate Director
Dana Sanchez, Commissioner of Officials

Subject: Volleyball Points of Emphasis and Clarification for the 2009 Season
from the NMAA Volleyball Rules Interpreters

Date: August 21, 2009

As you may already know, the NMAA has developed a statewide rules interpreters program for all sports for the first time this year. The purpose of the rules interpreters program is to assist our officials in the consistent application of rules throughout the state and to ensure that coaches and officials are on the same page relative to volleyball rules. In addition, the five individuals serving as rules interpreters will be the go-to contacts for rules interpretations for our coaches and officials. Their contact information is supplied at the end of this memo.

Our office staff met with the volleyball interpreters last week and the group came up with a number of items for clarification and emphasis. They are as follows:

NOISEMAKER POLICY CLARIFICATION

Under NFHS rules, the use of artificial noisemakers is prohibited. However, New Mexico's exception states that the use of artificial noisemakers is allowed during pre-match, between points, timeouts, between games and post-game. Any noisemaker which imitates an official's whistle or other signaling device is strictly prohibited.

- As a point of clarification, noisemakers are allowed during dead ball situations. Once the referee puts his/her hand out to beckon the serve, the use of noisemakers **must** cease.

BENCH DECORUM

Rule 12-2-6 of the NFHS Volleyball rulebook underwent a significant change this year to now permit the head coach from each team to stand in the libero replacement zone during play to coach his/her players.

- 1) The head coach, when standing during play, shall not be closer than six feet to the sideline.
- 2) The head coach standing in the libero replacement zone is a privilege extended to the coach providing he/she displays specific conduct. The same expectation of good conduct extends to assistant coaches, players and other bench personnel.
- 3) If a head coach continually steps outside of the specified area where he/she may stand, the second referee should request an issuing of a yellow card to the coach by the first referee.
- 4) If the head coach, while standing, blocks the second referee's view of the lines of the court or of the line judges, the coach will be expected to move. The official's view of the court and officiating crew are a priority over the coaches' ability to stand.

- 5) Should the head coach abuse the privilege by trying to engage the second referee or line judge regarding calls, the second referee will request appropriate issuing of a yellow or red card.
- 6) Should a card be issued, the head coach no longer has the privilege to stand during play or dead balls for the remainder of the match.

CHANGES TO MULTIPLE SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE

The procedure for multiple substitutions has changed. If more than one substitution is occurring, only one substitute shall be in the substitution zone at a time with the outgoing player lined up at the sideline ready to exit the court, while the second pair waits outside of the zone. Once the second referee releases the pair and the substitute is entering the court, the next pair will proceed to the sub zone without delay.

- The change is that the subs will enter the sub zone and the court one at a time.
- Please note that it is unacceptable, for example, to have two subs ready to go into the game and then to have a third run up from the bench. The third sub would be disallowed. Everyone needs to report from the bench at the same time and then wait outside the sub zone for their turn to enter into the game.

ABILITY FOR PLAYERS TO “KICK” THE BALL

If there is a live ball situation and a player kicks the ball in an attempt to play it, then the play is legal. If a player kicks the ball in a dead ball situation out of frustration or in a demonstration of unsportsmanlike conduct, the player will be penalized for her conduct. Playing the ball with any part of the body is legal.

COLORED PANEL BALL

As a reminder, the rule regarding the colored-panel ball will go into effect for the 2010 season, not for the current year. Beginning in 2010, the NFHS will permit the use of an all-white ball OR a colored panel volleyball. The use of a colored panel volleyball for the current season is not an option. More information about this item will be disseminated to coaches and officials at the end of this season.

BEGINNING OF MATCH PROCEDURES

Pursuant to NFHS Volleyball Rulebook 5-3-4a, once the first referee brings the players on to the court, everyone should be ready to play. After the initial handshake is over, the six starters from each team remain on the court, in position to play. No additional huddle with coaches will take place after the handshake has occurred and the first referee has brought them onto the court.

END-OF-GAME PROCEDURES

Please note that the protocol for end-of-game and end-of-match procedures will be strictly enforced, pursuant to NFHS Volleyball Rulebook 5-3-4b and 5-3-4e. The players must go to and remain at their respective endline until the referee releases them.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS EVENTS

Over the past couple of years, many NMAA member schools have hosted breast cancer awareness events and we commend those schools that have participated in this worthy cause. For these breast cancer awareness matches, our office allows players to utilize pink jerseys, for teams to use pink volleyballs and for officials to wear pink shirts in order to advocate for breast cancer awareness.

Officials – Please allow schools to play with ANY pink ball for these matches and note that we do permit players to wear T-shirts for the purposes of these breast cancer awareness matches.

SCOREKEEPERS & LIBERO TRACKERS

Below are some points of emphasis as determined by the NMAA office and the Volleyball Rules Interpreters concerning scorekeepers and libero trackers:

- 1) **Two Scorekeepers Required** - By rule, schools must have two scorekeepers for all varsity matches. ***This is a point of emphasis from the NMAA office.*** For additional information about this policy, please contact Sally Marquez at (505) 923-3267 or via email at smarquez@nmact.org.
- 2) **Scorekeeper Clinics** - Beginning in 2010, the NMAA and the local volleyball associations will be facilitating clinics in the pre-season for scorekeepers and libero trackers. We will notify schools of when these clinics will be taking place and will ask that coaches and/or Athletic Directors send any individuals who may be serving as scorekeepers and libero trackers to these free clinics. More information to come in the future.
- 3) **Libero Trackers** – As a reminder, it is the responsibility of the host team to provide a libero tracker. If the home team does not use a libero, then the visiting team must provide its own libero tracker.

PLAYER UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:

As a reminder, it is the responsibility of the head coach to ensure that all of his/her players are properly and legally equipped for each contest. The head coach assumes that responsibility through signing off on the materials on the NMAA District Clinic online. Coaches are also asked at the pre-game conferences as to if their players are suitably attired and legal. Clarification about hair control devices is provided below:

- 1) **Bobby Pins/Hair Control Devices** – Hair devices made of soft material or unadorned bobby pins, no longer than two inches, may be worn to control the hair. Barrettes, flat clips and similar items continue to be illegal.

LOCATION OF CHEERLEADERS AT CONTESTS

Cheerleaders are to be stationed on the endlines on their team's side of the court. It is up to the officials' discretion as to if they are encroaching on the game. Officials may ask home site management to assist in moving cheerleaders if, in the judgment of the officials, the location of the cheerleaders is a potential safety issue.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACHES AND OFFICIALS

Our office encourages positive communication between coaches and officials. Procedurally, if a coach has a question about a rules interpretation or decision, he/she should ask the second referee first. The second referee can then involve the first referee if necessary. Although the NFHS rulebook does state a different procedure, for consistency purposes, the statewide rules interpreters agreed that the aforementioned process be adhered to.

INFORMATION FOR OFFICIALS:

- 1) Officials' Uniforms (Shorts) – By state adoption, officials may wear shorts while officiating NMAA sanctioned matches. If shorts are worn, both the Referee 1 and Referee 2 must wear them, so we advise that officials contact their partners prior to matches to ensure you are wearing the same uniform. If officials choose to wear shorts, they must wear unadorned white shoes with white socks. Shorts **WILL NOT** be allowed for post-season competition, beginning with the district tournaments.
- 2) Officials' Uniforms (Lanyards & Whistles) – Questions have been posed to our office about the color of lanyards for volleyball officials. Pursuant to the NFHS Case Book and Officials Manual, the lanyard for officials can be black or white. Whistles may be any color, although the NFHS states that black is preferred.
- 3) Casebook Error (page 60) – Please note that there is an error in the casebook, page 60, regarding Rule 5-3-4d. Follow page 19 of the rulebook for the correct procedure, which indicates that the first referee shall release the teams from the endlines to go to their benches. Following the coin toss, the first referee whistles and signals the teams to change courts or to remain at their same benches.

The volleyball rules interpreters for the 2009 season are:

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If you have rules questions, you are asked to call or email the individual in your region of the state for clarification and interpretation.

Thank you for your attention to this information. If you have questions or if you need additional information on the rules interpreters program, please feel free to contact us. Have a great season!