Volleyball
Certification Clinic
2021-22

PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES AND TECHNIQUES

LAST YEARS RULE CHANGES

2020-21

RULE 4.4.1 (2020)

- Allows the use of a molded protective face mask made of hard material during play.

  - **Rationale:** Creates consistency with other NFHS rules codes.

RULE 7.1.1 and PENALTIES; (NEW); 9.9.1a (NEW); 10.3.7b: (2020)

- Eliminates the loss of rally/point penalty for failure to submit the team roster during the pre-match conference and replaces the penalty with an unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card, YUD).

    - **Rationale:** Eliminates the double penalty for a late roster and an incorrect roster before the start of the match.

RULE 7.1.4a (1) & (2) NEW (2020)

- Allows a team to correct a submitted lineup if it lists a libero number that no team member is wearing.

  - **Rationale:** Creates consistency in allowing the correction of a clerical error (listing a number that no team member is wearing) on the lineup for a starting position and the libero position.

RULE 12.2.6 (2020)

- Establishes that a yellow card issued for unsporting conduct to the head coach, assistant coach(es) or team bench will no longer require the head coach to remain seated, while maintaining that a red unsporting conduct card will require the head coach to remain seated for the remainder of the match.

  - **Rationale:** Creates a penalty progression by allowing an official to warn a head coach with a yellow unsporting conduct card without requiring the coach to remain seated for the remainder of the match.

2020-21 VOLLEYBALL OFFICIAL SIGNAL CHANGE

- **Official Signal #15:** Establishes that an official will rotate their forearms around each other with closed hands to signal substitution.

  - **Rationale:** Aligns with current trends of the sport.

2020-21 VOLLEYBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

RULE 4.2.1e (2020)

- Removes language referencing the size restrictions of mascots and/or school names placed on the uniform sleeve as a part of the 2019-20 uniform rules changes.

- **10.3.6b, 10.3.6c, 10.3.6 NOTE (NEW):** Clarifies the order of priority for an exceptional substitution for an injured/ill player aligning the language with Rule 10.4.3b.

2021-22 NFHS Rule Change

- **4-1-6a, b (NEW):** Allows players to wear head coverings for religious reasons that fit securely and are made of non-abrasive or soft materials while still requiring head coverings worn for medical reasons to be approved by the state association.

- **Rationale:** Eliminates the need for authorization from the state association for the wearing of religious headwear without data to support an increased risk while maintaining the requirement for approval of head coverings worn for medical reasons – allowing the state association to review for the purposes of risk minimization.

2021-22 NFHS Rule Change

- **5-3-1, 5-3-1 NOTES:** Allows state associations to approve of gray and/or bright blue (cyan) in addition to the white short or long-sleeved polo-style shirts while maintaining that officials must dress in like colors. Simplifies the accommodations for varying climate conditions within the competition facility.
- **Rationale:** Provides state associations with additional officials' uniform options while aligning with trends in the game.

2021-22 NFHS Rule Change

- **7-1-4 PENALTIES, 9-9-1b (NEW):** Eliminates the loss of rally/point penalty for failure to submit the lineup no later than two minutes prior to the end of the timed prematch warmup and one minute prior to the end of the timed interval between sets. The penalty was changed to an unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card) with the escalation of a second unnecessary delay (administrative red card) if not submitted by the end of the timed prematch warmup or interval.

- **Rationale:** Aligns the penalty with the late roster and lessens the severity of the penalty for a late lineup.

2021-22 Major Editorial Changes

State Association Adoption Chart (NEW): Clarifies and organizes all rules that allow for state association adoption.

2021-22 Editorial Changes

5-4-3c(22), 5-5-3b(21), Unnecessary Delays Chart

2021-22 Points of Emphasis

Insert

2021-22 IHSAA IMPORTANT DATES

- Part I Test: April 1-March 31
- *All Part I tests will remain open the ENTIRE year to encourage new officials*
- Rules Interpretation Meetings: July 26-August 16
- Tournament Application Window: August 16-September 5
- Part II Test (Required for Tournament): August 16-September 20
- Deadline to Add Games: September 20
- Meetings Attendance Due: September 20
- Officials Ratings: September 6-20
- IHSAA Sectionals: **October 12, 14, 16, 2021**
- IHSAA Regionals: **October 23, 2021**
- IHSAA Semi-State: **October 30, 2021**
- IHSAA State Championship: **November 6, 2021**

DO YOU KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF VOLLEYBALL?

Oct 24, 2016 | Blog, Referee Training

Every sport has its own language of signals, signs, and commands. It’s necessary to be able to communicate ideas quickly without giving extra information or crossing any wires. This complex art is something that volleyball has mastered, according to Pete Acampora of *Referee Magazine*.

The trick to any language is simplicity—too much variety and you’ll get mixed signals and errors in communication. Volleyball officials use signals that are universal throughout the United States and even international games, where more traditional language barriers could be a problem, volleyball officials have very few problems communicating rulings through hand signals. Deaf or hard-of-hearing players and fans can even understand these signals, even if the officials don’t know any sign language.

DO YOU KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF VOLLEYBALL?

Oct 24, 2016 | [Blog](), [Referee Training]()

Volleyball Signals Should be Logical and Consistent

It can be tempting for newer officials to want to adopt more intuitive-seeming signals. The problem with this is that signals aren't something that a single person decided on at a particular time—the way that volleyball officials communicate has been in use for several years and has evolved alongside the sport itself. The aim of the signals is to be logical and consistent no matter who's playing or where you are and diverging from tried-and-true signals doesn't help convey appropriate messages on the court.

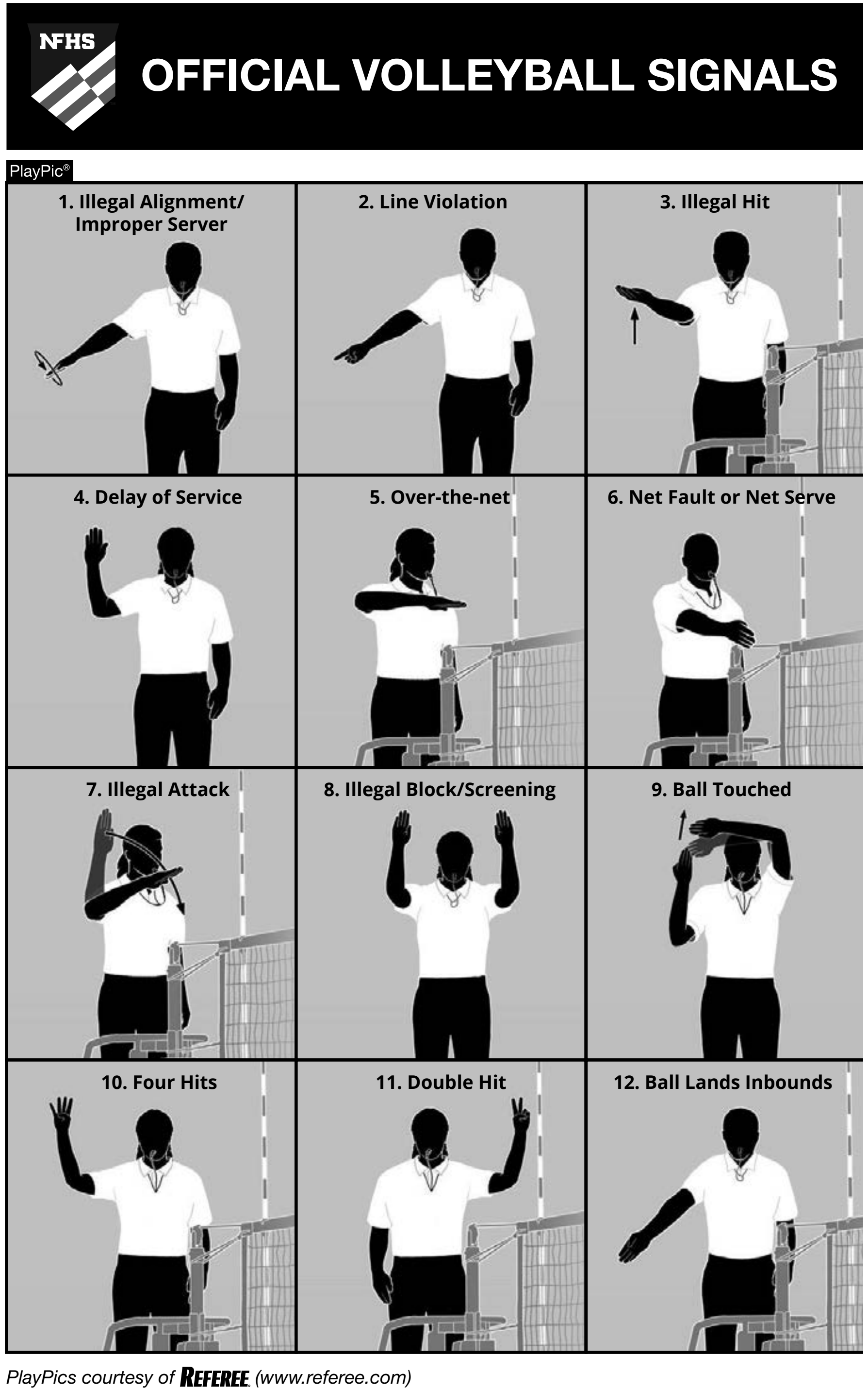
There is also some temptation to use unorthodox and informal signals on the court, especially when things get more heated. However, language in all forms should be respectful. Volleyball signals are a way that officials communicate with players, coaches, scorers, and fans of the sport. Just like words need to make sense in a sentence, the sentence needs to make sense for the audience. Sportsmanship and professionalism are important, so authorized, clear, and professional signals are an important standard to uphold.

DO YOU KNOW THE LANGUAGE OF VOLLEYBALL?

Oct 24, 2016 | Blog, Referee Training

Understanding Signals Versus Using Them

Volleyball officials also recognize the unique problem of understanding versus using a language. So many officials come into the business after being a player or a coach, which both require that they receive signals from referees. However, seeing and understanding the signals as opposed to seeing action on the court and being able to communicate through those same signals is a different art form. It's important for a referee, no matter how long they've been in the business, to be able to use the language of the game effectively once they set foot on the court. It only makes sense that Acampora believes that new officials need to be taught about communication alongside the basic rules of the game they aspire to judge.



- Elbows shoulder height
- Separate mechanics
- Frame your face
- Call it what it is
- Use correct hand
- No Extra-curricular mechanics

Mechanics - Follow three rules: Do the right thing, do the best you can, and always show people you care.

Rules Outside the Court Lines

Defining the playing area is an important part of the referees' prematch duties. Identifying obstacles, any changes in court surface or elevation, and establishing other non-playing areas will help teams play freely within the confines of the playing space. That also helps referees determine the legality of a play that may involve those non-playable areas once the match begins.

The rules allow a player to contact a ball that is above a non-playable area provided he/she has a part of his/her body touching the playing surface at the moment the ball is contacted. Likewise, the rules allow a player to continue into a non-playable area after playing the ball. A player standing entirely in a non-playable area at the moment the ball is contacted will be ruled out of bounds.

The key for referees in determining the legality of those plays is determining the position of the player. That is especially true when the playing action is quick and a player is hustling toward a non-playable area to save an errant pass. The PlayPic demonstrates one of the common situations in which a player tries to save an errant pass — near the team bench or spectator seating. It can be a challenge for referees to watch the contact of the ball while also keeping an eye on the player to ensure that a body part is touching the playing surface when the ball is contacted. In some cases, the second referee may be able to assist by focusing on the player's position while the first referee watches the ball contact.

The referees should allow play to continue unless they are 100 percent certain that the player was not touching the playing surface as the ball was contacted. That kind of play is exciting for the spectators and builds momentum for a team. Don't whistle a fault unless it is clear the player was out of bounds. □

Rules Outside the Court Lines

Restricted Play - (2.4.1c) Casebook – references first referee blowing whistle

Addressing the Covid-19 bench area with chairs spaced 6 feet apart (align benches with defined court line or floor covering)

First Referees Responsibility - (5.4.1d)

d. Establish nonplayable areas, and define any additional ground rules which might be necessary

Second Referee - (5.5.3a)

a. The second referee shall assist the first referee by ruling upon situations which are clearly out of the first referee's view. If assistance is provided, it should be done with a **visual, informal signal**.

SECOND REFEREE DOES NOT WHISTLE THIS GIVE INFORMAL SIGNAL

COMMUNICATION KEY WITH SECOND REFEREE, TABLE

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 or 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 second referee 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 that 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. That good communication will avoid possible problems or an incorrect call by the second referee. ☐

LINEUPS/TABLE SECOND REFEREE RESPONSIBILITY

Protocols and Engaging Table

Lineups – (5.5.3b.9)

Check the lineup of each team from the lineup card prior to each set. Once verified, the libero may enter the set. (Lineups are what the coaches submit, this is the **OFFICIAL LINEUP**, not what you (R2) write down on your card).

2017 we discussed checking lineups and **ENGAGING** the scorer and Libero tracker. R2 is to check lineups from the sideline, not on the court with the ball remaining at the score table. Check receiving side first **WITH COACH'S LINEUP CARD**, then ask the scorer and Libero tracker to visually and verbally confirm that is what they have written down. Receiving side, first server starts in right front position. Then check the serving side **WITH THE COACH'S LINEUP CARD**, then ask the scorer and Libero tracker to visually and verbally confirm that is what they have written down. This tripling checking of lineups prevents the mistakes we have all made in the past and **ENGAGES OUR TABLE** confirming their relevance as part of the work crew.

Lineups – (5.5.1d) Note: "**Engage the Table**"

Verify the starting lineups have been entered correctly on the official scoresheet and libero sheet.

Protocols AND Engaging the Table

Libero and Libero Tracker

1. R2's please cover responsibilities of libero tracker and their expectations. **ENGAGE TABLE!**
2. Libero replacement shall take place between the attack line and the end-line. **NOT**, beyond the baseline or in the substitution zone.
3. The libero may only be replaced by the player whom she replaced (example: Oreo Cookie).

Libero tracker should notify immediately the R2 if the libero does not remain out of the set for one rally between replacements, unless the libero is replacing the player in the right back position and will serve the next rally.

Protocols AND Engaging the Table

Potential Penalties for Illegal Libero Replacement:

YUD/RUD - Yellow Unnecessary Delay or Red Unnecessary Delay if second offense during the same set.

Illegal Rotation – Loss of rally and/or penalty point.

Illegal Server: 5.5.3e

Sound the audio device at the time the ball is contacted for the serve when there is an improper server;

Highly recommend not to sound audio device. Second referee pre-match with scorer and electronic scorer. Scorer tells R2 upon contact of serve that it was illegal, second referee then recognizes the information. At the completion of the rally, the R2 will whistle and recognize the fault, then double checks with the scorer that it was illegal server. This avoids a potential replay.

NOTE: The scorer and libero tracker are part of the officiating crew. No comments about play shall be allowed from the assistant officials at the officials' table unless relevant to scoresheet or libero tracking sheet. No cheering or comments about play shall occur.

Keep the Libero on Track

Accurate Tracking- A Vital Part of Keeping Lineups in Order

You have been assigned as a libero tracker for the volleyball match and someone tells you to watch the funny-named person in the different-colored jersey, running on and off the court in what seems like a "willy-nilly" fashion. But why do you have to track that player, and how do you pronounce that name?

Libero (pronounced Lee'-ba-roh) is an Italian word meaning "free." The libero can play any position in the back row, and was intended to be used as a defensive specialist charged to keep the ball live. The libero can replace any player who is in the back row. This can give a great defensive advantage to a team. But because of that advantage, rules are put in place to ensure the position is not abused. These rules are the reason it is critical to have the libero tracker tracking this position as the libero moves on and off the court.

NFHS rules allow for a single libero for each set. Teams can change their libero from set to set.

The libero tracking sheet is set up very similarly to the scoresheet. Each player's number is recorded in the serving order just as on the scoresheet. Instead of tracking points to the right of the number, the libero tracker tracks the libero exchanges and all substitutions. This is done by writing the number of the new player to the right of the current one. Or in the case of the libero, an "L" is used instead of the libero jersey number. The previous number or "L" to the left is crossed with a slash to designate the player is no longer on the court. During time-outs, either referee may ask if the liberos for each team were on the court, as the same six players must return to the court after the time-out has ended. The libero tracker must be able to look quickly on the tracking sheet to recognize if the "L" is still on the court and inform the referee. As with scoring, communication is key. Remember, the table crew works as a team and is a double-check for each other.

During the course of a close game it can get a little chaotic. Players get excited and sometimes forget to follow procedures. This is what makes the libero tracker's position so important as a missed or improper exchange could lead to a delay warning or penalty.

When working with an inexperienced libero tracker, make sure you explain the importance of scanning both teams' benches on every dead ball to see if an exchange is occurring. Scanning until the first referee whistles for serve is a good way to catch exchanges and potential substitutions that may take place during a dead ball. Also, remind the libero tracker to indicate on the tracking sheet when the libero serves for the first time in a set by placing a triangle around the position number of the player the libero replaced.

Here are some of the rules that are specific to the libero that are designed to aid in the tracking and legality of the position:

- The libero must be in a contrasting color jersey from the rest of the team. This allows for easy identification as the libero enters and exits the court between rallies.
- The libero must enter and exit the court (along with the player being replaced) between the attack line and the end line only. Any exchange outside this area results in an unnecessary delay. This ensures the libero exchange is not confused with a legal substitution and makes it easier for the libero tracker and referees to see the exchanges as they take place.
- The libero must sit out one rally between exchanges. The exception to this requirement is if the libero moves to the service position. In that situation, the libero is allowed to stay on the court without sitting out one rally. Often, this results in what is commonly referred to as a "double switch." In most instances, the libero on the court has replaced a middle hitter. When that position rotates to the front row, the libero stays in to serve for the other middle who would be rotating back to serve. The middle hitters will exchange in the replacement area, and two replacemer need to be recorded on the tracking sheet.
- The libero is only allowed to serve in one position in the six-person rotation. On the tracking sheet, we designate the position where the libero serves by putting a triangle around the Roman numeral of the service position — not the player's number. If the libero attempts to serve in a second position, the libero tracker notifies the second referee immediately.

Many people are intimidated when working as the libero tracker for the first time. You can ease their anxiety by asking the second referee to create a sample tracking sheet and leave it as an example to refer to during the match. Also, when possible, ask the person operating the scoreboard to assist by calling out the numbers of the players who are exchanging. The second referee should help in this area as well, as he or she also needs to be aware of libero exchanges. □

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

As shown in the MechaniGram, the entire court is covered between two referees during playing action. The first referee has primary responsibility for the serving/offensive team, and the second referee covers the receiving/defensive team. As the ball crosses the net, the referees are constantly switching their focus from side to side to ensure both sides are covered.

As first referee, concentration starts with the serving team by focusing on identifying overlaps and rotational issues, screening and foot faults by the server. The service contact must occur before any of those faults by the serving team can be whistled.

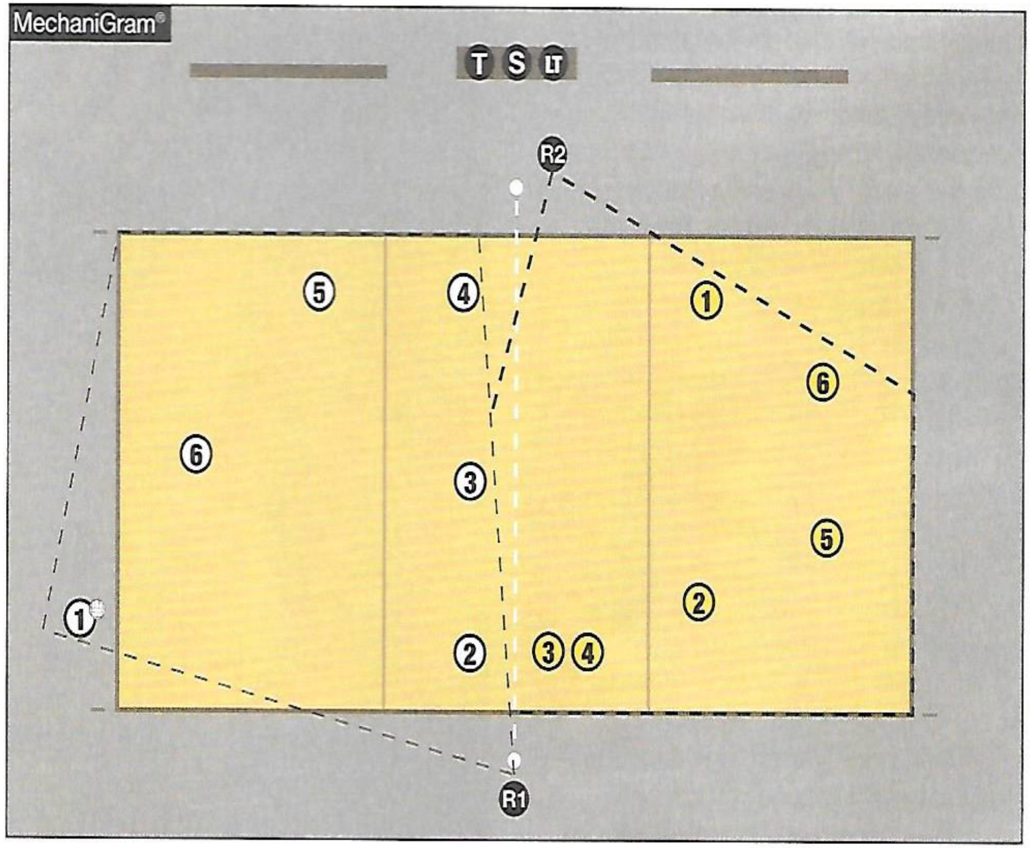
The second referee establishes a position on the receiving team's side of the net to start a rally. First and foremost, initial focus should be on player positions, identifying the setter's location and recognizing primary passers.

There are just a few seconds prior to the whistle and service authorization to identify potential overlap or alignment issues. The key to calling an illegal alignment or position/rotation fault for either referee is to listen for the contact of the serve. Only at that moment can an illegal alignment be whistled.

Upon service contact, a second referee immediately transitions to the opposite side of the net while maintaining focus on the receiving team. That focus allows the second referee to get a feel for where the play will develop at the net.

As the ball is being passed toward the net, the first referee observes the attacking or offensive team to judge ballhandling and to recognize plays involving back-row players. The second referee is reading the play while standing on the blocking or defensive team's side of the net. As the ball moves near the net, the second referee focuses on the area of the net where the ball is likely to cross, watching for net faults by the blocker(s) or attacker, touches of the ball near the net, and centerline faults by either team.

That constant change of focus, with the first referee staying with the ball and the second referee positioned on the defensive side of the court, allows the referees to cover both sides of the net. Each referee has responsibilities, which at times may overlap. But with a solid understanding of the duties outlined in the rules, and good communication during the match, the referees can ensure none of the action is missed. □



DOUBLE TEAM NET PLAY AND TRANSITIONING

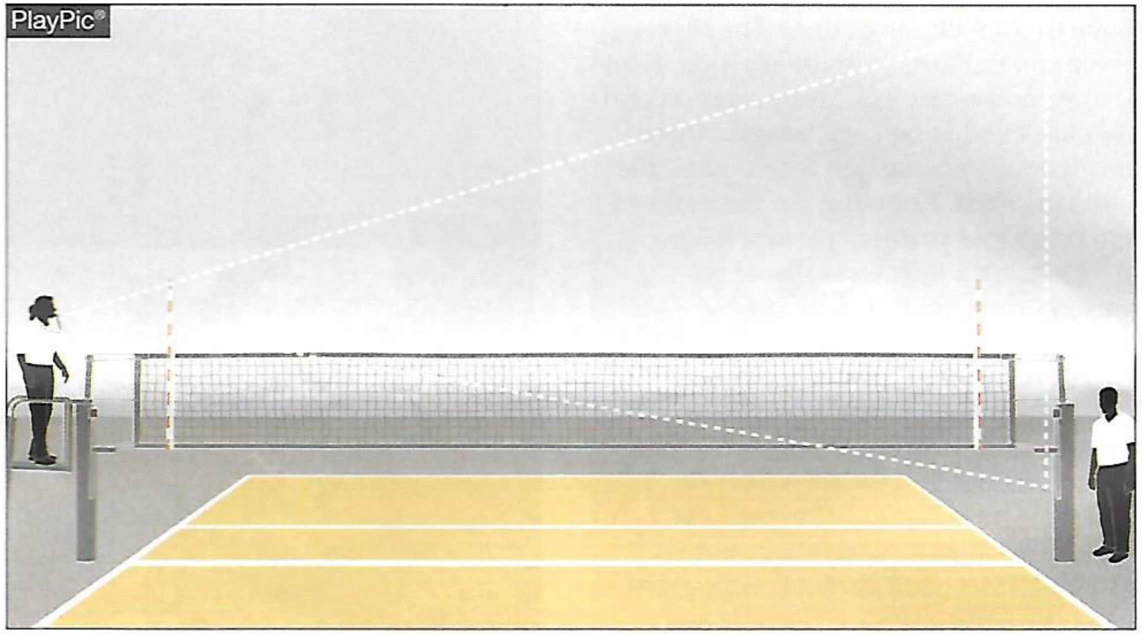
Net play requires referees to "divide and conquer" when it comes to ensuring playing actions are thoroughly covered. The first referee concentrates on the offensive side of the net to observe ballhandling, back-row player faults and plays involving the libero. The second referee focuses on the net, centerline, and assists with back-row player faults and libero plays, among other things. While each has his or her own areas of primary responsibility, they must work together to get the calls right.

As play moves toward the net, the first referee must be focused on ballhandling and the back-row players' actions. The second referee must be positioned on the blockers' side of the net but must also be aware of the ensuing play on the opposite side of the net in order to help identify back-row player faults or plays that might be out of the first referee's view. The second referee should have a broader focus, enabling him or her to view the attack line in case the attack is by a back-row player.

A good philosophy that helps referees cover back-row plays is, "You (first referee) take the hands, I (second referee) will take the feet." That means the first referee is watching the ball contact, and the second referee is making sure the back-row player or libero is behind the attack line. It is nearly impossible to watch the contact of the ball and the player's feet at the same time, and referees must work together to ensure that play is covered.

Once the ball is near the net, the second referee must be positioned to clearly see the attack-hit through the net while maintaining focus on the blockers' actions. As the blockers move toward the net to begin the blocking action, the second referee needs to quickly focus on the centerline to ensure neither team commits a fault. As the blockers jump to block the ball, the second referee must change his or her focus from the centerline to the net, keeping in mind that the blocker might touch the bottom or middle of the net on the way up, or the top of the net during the blocking action, or is at risk of contacting any portion of the net as he or she returns to the floor.

While focused near the top of the net at the height of the blocking action, the second referee must also be aware of blockers touching the ball, especially if the ball lands out of bounds after being touched by the blocker. Continue to focus on the net and centerline. ☐



The first referee watches for ballhandling faults, illegal blocks, back-row player faults and net faults. The second referee looks for centerline faults, back-row player faults, net fouls and ballhandling faults that cannot be seen by the first referee.

TRANSITION MISSION

Among the second referee's responsibilities, transitioning (moving from one side of the net post to the other during play) is frequently addressed. I've learned the following important transitioning techniques:

- Be in the right position at the right time.
- Look through the net.
- See the play develop; watch the play coming to you.
- Transition with purpose.

Basic transitioning principles:

- Get to the blocker's side of the net if/when the net/center line area is clear.
- Set your feet; be stationary to watch net play.
- Stay focused at the net until the play has left that area.
- Be aware of the center line; transition after players have moved away from the center line.
- Transition techniques vary: one or two steps, cross-over, cross-behind or side-stepping.
- Transition timing and pace depend on the level/speed of play.
- While transitioning, use a wider, open view to pick up the ball.
- Keep your shoulders parallel to the court.
- As the play closes to the net, your focus narrows to the third of the net where the attack/block will occur.
- Focus narrows further to the blocker's hands, looking for contact with the net or touches.
- Don't lean; consider a slight step/adjustment to improve the view of a play. □

NFHS | REFEREE

R2: Please Let Me Finish

When officials use uniform signals, it enhances the understanding of the game by coaches, players and fans. It also demonstrates professionalism and pride by officials. As the universal language of officials, consistency in the protocol being used during the match (including indicating the offending player when appropriate) demonstrates teamwork by the officials, allows for clear communication and provides more efficient match administration.

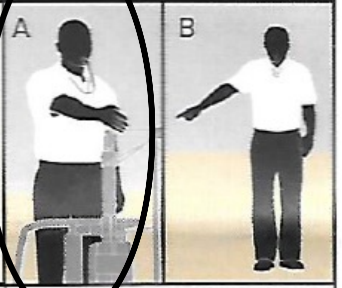
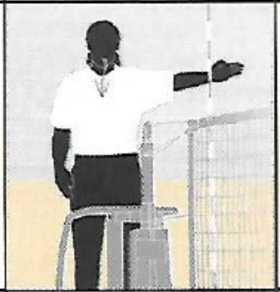
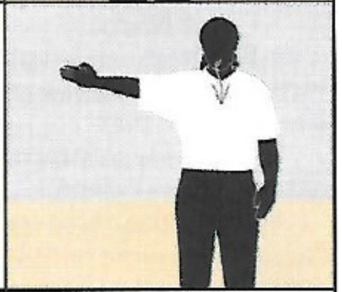
Here, we will examine the proper mechanics and protocol for player faults whistled by the second referee. Let's summarize the complete process and detail who does what, and when they do it.

The following procedure is used when the match is officiated by both a first referee and a second referee.

According to the 2020 NFHS Volleyball Case Book and Officials Manual, the mechanics for net or centerline faults called by the second referee are:

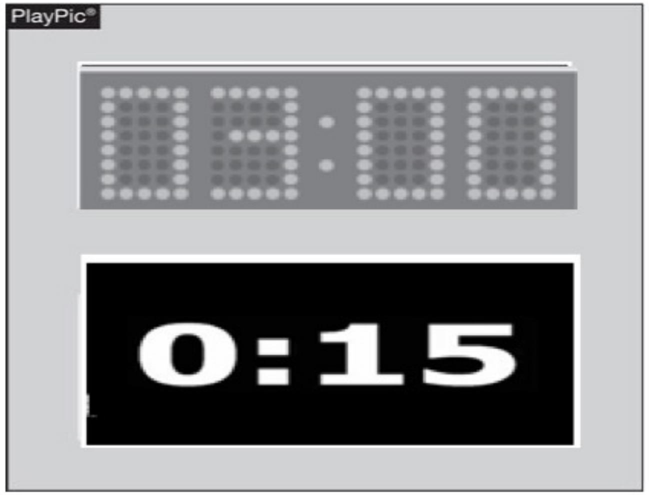
R2: Please Let Me Finish

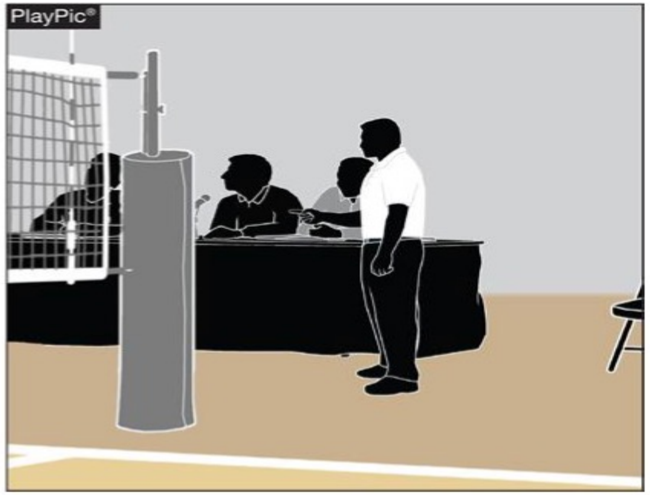
R1 BE PATIENT: Let R2 finish their information

First Referee		Second Referee	
What	**R1 Signal**	**What**	**R2 Signal**
Focus attention on R2 upon hearing whistle.	No signal	1. Whistle and step to the offending team's side of the net post.	No signal
Gather information from R2.	No signal **Figure A.** should have been R2	2. Signal the fault. A. Signal 6 - Net Fault OR B. Signal 2 - Line Violation	
Continue to gather information from the R2.	No signal	3. For net faults only, indicate to the first referee the player at fault using the approved hand signals for the rule set. Show the number of the player.	
4. If the first referee agrees with the fault information provided by the second referee, award the point to the non-offending team.		5. The second referee mimics the point signal.	
6. The first referee indicates the player at fault by showing the number of the offending player (net faults only).		If the coach asks for clarification as to which player was at fault, provide the information either verbally or by using hand signals.	No signal

TIME-OUTS, TIME BETWEEN SETS RULES 5-5-3b(12), 5-5-3b(19) 5-8-3a, 5-8-3c

- To end the timed interval between sets or intermission, the second referee and timer shall use similar mechanics as ending a time-out
- The R2 sounds warning whistle at two minutes, 45 seconds (4:45 intermission) to alert teams to return to court
- At the end of three minutes (5 intermission) the timer shall sound the audio signal (horn) to officially end the interval, unless both teams are on the court





TIME-OUT SECOND REFEREE RESPONSIBILITY

Rule 5.5.3b.13

- Indicate a warning at 45 seconds with a double whistle and instruct the timer to sound the audio signal (horn) at 60 seconds to end the time-out or whistle if both teams are ready to play prior to the 45-second warning whistle, instruct timer to sound the horn; (Procedure for multiple courts, see <u>5-8-3a</u> NOTE)

Initiating a time-out is easy enough when you are the second referee, especially if you are alert to requests and anticipate the need for the time-out. When you hear a request or see the coach signal a time-out, immediately sound two short whistles while signaling the time-out. Follow that signal with the indication of which team called the time-out and indicate to the first referee the number of time-outs each team has used. Start your watch and make sure the visual clock has started.

Why start the time on your watch? You're covered if there is a sudden equipment malfunction that affects the visual clock, even for a moment, and the time is lost off the clock; you have it on your watch. Time-outs are 60 seconds, and the second referee sounds a double whistle with 15 seconds remaining. To end the time-out, the clock operator will sound the horn or buzzer on the timing device.

When there are just a few seconds left in the time-out, if the teams are not preparing to return to the court ready to play, remind them verbally. If a team delays returning to the court once time is expired, an unnecessary delay would be in order.

Once the time-out is over, move to the receiving team's side with your whistle in your mouth, signal the number of time-outs taken by each team and give the court back to the first referee so play can begin.

During a time-out, the second referee will:

- Check that the score on the scoresheet matches the visible scoreboard.
- Confirm how many time-outs each team has taken. When a team has used both time-outs, the second referee should inform the coach with the appropriate signal when the time-out ends.
- Verify with the assistant scorer/libero tracker whether the libero for each team was on the court when the time-out was called.
- As time expires, return to your base position, quickly scan both benches for any issues, and give the ready-to-play signal to the first referee indicating that play can resume. □

SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE DURING TIME-OUT's R2's RESPONSIBILITY

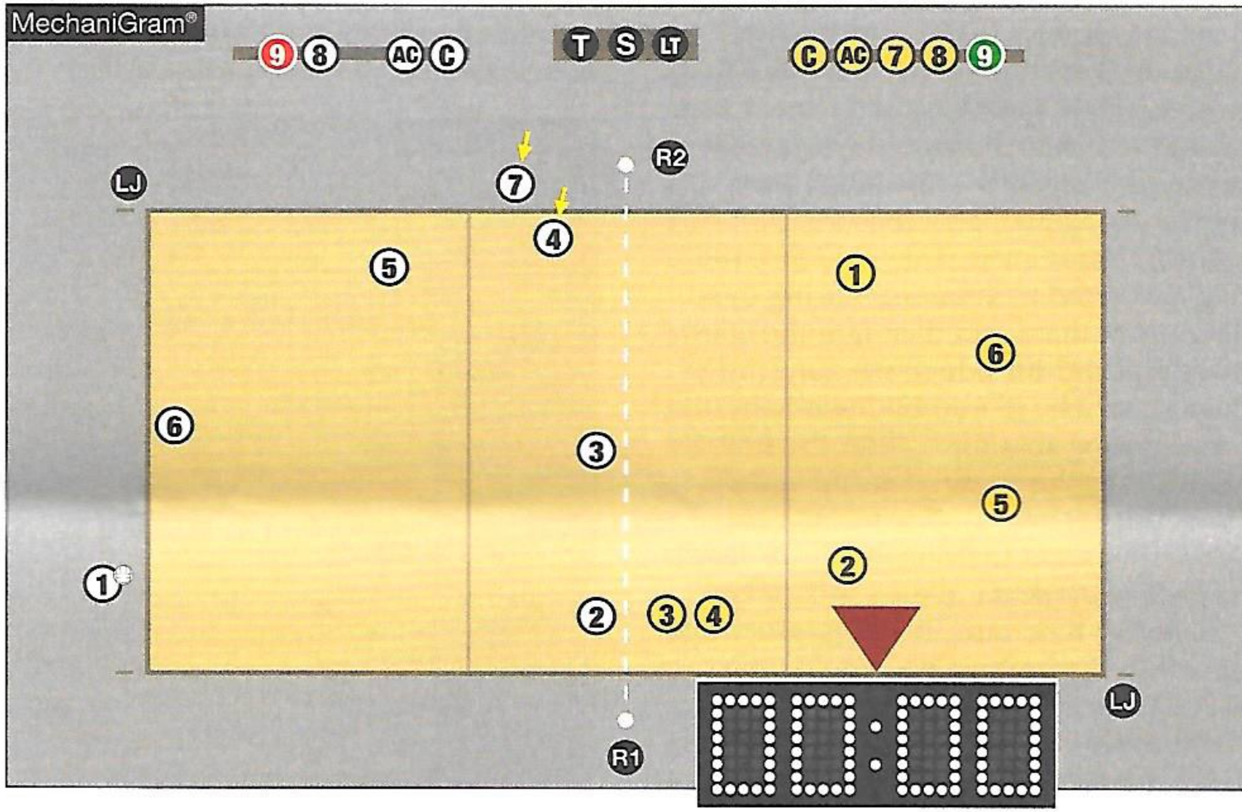
A substitution taking place when a team has called a time-out shall follow the standard substitution procedures: At the end of the time-out, the teams return to the court, the second referee checks each team's lineup and then the substitution(s) is recognized, recorded and with authorization from the 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.

As shown in the MechaniGram (red arrow), the clock timing the time-out has reached zero (00:00) and both teams have returned to their positions on the court. During the time-out, team A to the left of the first referee requested a substitution, A7 for A4 (yellow arrow). The referees will complete the end-of-time-out signal sequence by displaying the number of timeouts each team has used. The second referee then whistles (two short blasts) to recognize the substitution request.

The second referee ensures that he or she has correctly seen the numbers of the players involved in the substitution and then, while facing the court, authorizes the substitute to enter. It is very important that the second referee then communicates with the scorer to ensure the scorer has the correct substitute information and has recorded it properly. The second referee should also record the substitute on his or her lineup card before giving the "ready" signal to the first referee to resume play.

The procedure is important in terms of ensuring that all participants and officials, as well as spectators, know that the substitution has occurred. It also enables the second referee to confirm that the substitute has taken the correct position on the court. And, this procedure is consistent with the requirement that a libero replacement takes place after a time-out has ended, not during the time-out. ☐



SPECIAL NOTES/REOCCURING ISSUES

EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES - (4.1)

NOTES:

1. Prior to the match, head coaches shall verify with the first referee that all their players are legal and wearing legal uniforms and equipment.

ART. 6 ... Hair devices made of soft material and no more than 3 inches wide may be worn in the hair or on the head. Bobby pins, flat clips and flat barrettes, unadorned and no longer than 2 inches, are also allowed. **FLAT JEWERLY, NO BEADS**

ART. 8 ...

1. Discovery of **jewelry** on a player(s) during warm-up shall result in a referee directing that player, by way of a coach, to remove the **jewelry**. A player(s) who does not comply shall be charged with unsporting conduct.

MIGRAINE JEWELRY/EARRING

Permitted if accompanied by a wavier on IHSAA letter head and signed by Kerrie Schludecker, **not a doctor**.

PLEASE NOTE LOCATION

SPECIAL NOTES/REOCCURING ISSUES

LEGAL UNIFORM – (4.2)

ART. 1 ...

d. A single, visible manufacturer's logo and/or single school name or insignia no more than 2¼ inches are permitted on each visible undergarment.

ILLEGAL UNIFORM

ATTACK LINE – (2.1)

ART. 5 ... An **Attack line** shall be solid and of one clearly visible color, 2 inches (5 centimeters) wide, and shall be drawn across each playing area from sideline to sideline, 10 feet (3 meters) from the center line and parallel to it measured from the edge of the **attack line** farthest from the center line to the axis of the center line.

SPECIAL NOTES/REOCCURING ISSUES

DOWN BALLS

Second Referee should **NOT** blow their whistle to indicate a down ball anywhere on or off the court. R2 should **NOT** be signaling any close line calls on R2's side of the net.

Three reasons:

1. If in position, you are at least 3 feet away from post/standard and 6 feet from court, this is a bad angle to see where ball lands.
2. If you are doing your responsibility focusing on the net and center line, you will not see the ball landing in the back court or down the line.
3. Line calls are the line judge's responsibility, let them do their job. If you can see the ball that lands inside the attack lines on your side, you should be 120% sure.

ALL DECIDING SETS AT ALL LEVELS:

FRESHMAN, JV AND VARSITY ARE WIN BY 2

Number of sets allowed for a player in one night is in the IHSAA By-Laws and to be addressed by the school administration, **NOT THE OFFICIALS**. If it is not addressed in the Rulebook, we do not rule upon it. We can give guidance and tell them to copy the official scoresheet and share any concerns with the administration.

JV and/or Freshman match **CAN BE ONLY 2 SETS** (both teams winning only 1 set). This is to be determined before or at captain's meeting.

WHAT WE OWE THE GAME

You probably know how hard volleyball teams work to increase their skills — they are always striving to be better. Regardless of the playing level, teams practice for countless hours on the court. But that's not all they do to prepare for the match environment. They participate in team-building activities and team meetings, they eat meals together, they often make it a point to get along even if they don't have much in common. They work hard to form a strong team environment. Many players also watch a lot of video of themselves and their team or spend time in individual or small group breakdown sessions with the coaching staff, providing opportunities for self-evaluation.

Do officials have any less obligation to develop our skills, both individually and as a team? Depending on the level of play and the expectations/ requirements of assigners, most referees may attend a preseason clinic or rules meeting, possibly take an exam (often open book or in groups), and maybe arrange to be observed by a peer or evaluator occasionally. And for many referees, that is the sum of season/match preparation.

Should we do more? Perhaps we can and should devote more time to preparation, team building and self-evaluation. We owe it to the players, fans, coaches and the game.

The NFHS has begun to develop online education, based on the topics that state associations identified as most critical — ball handling is available now, and illegal alignment is coming soon. In addition, referees can often find opportunities to practice on court during spring/summer scrimmages

Functioning as a team is important for officials, and yet we often show up at a match and start out by introducing ourselves to members of the crew who are total strangers. You've been told many times to contact the officials with whom you'll be working a few days in advance to confirm match details and communicate arrival plans. Can we build on that basic requirement? If you don't know your partner, perhaps there is time to meet for a snack or beverage before the match, so that your pre-match discussion is not limited to a few minutes before the match begins. It would be helpful to know more about your partner's experience level and background, and then just get to know each other better. Your officiating partnership will be better for it.

The officiating team includes the line judges and scorers, too. However, our culture often limits whether those individuals are identified before arriving at the match site. Promoting a team environment can be challenging with that limited time, but it is important. Be inclusive in your pre-match discussion with the line judge and score crew. Assure them that their jobs are critical and meaningful, and you will rely on the information they provide. During the match, call them by name when you verbally communicate. Be sure to thank them for their work.

The post-match debriefing is an opportunity to continue to build the team environment. The goal should be that all participants leave with more knowledge and/or skills than they started with. That increased knowledge arises from good communication, mentoring, and a supportive, inclusive environment. It's a chance for everyone to do some self-evaluation on their performance. □

QUICK TIP

Try to develop a ritual on match days. Rituals help to ease you into a state of mind that is needed in order to officiate well. Quite often a ritual will help you to concentrate for your match, raise intensity, stay loose and more. Examples are light exercise, reading, watching TV or even taking a prematch nap.

PLEASE SHARE CLINIC INFORMATION WITH YOUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. CONSISTENCY ACROSS THE STATE IS RELIANT ON THE ASSOCIATION CHAIRS, CLINICIANS AND TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS TO SHARE THIS INFORMATION. IT IS A POOR REFLECTION ON US AS OFFICIALS WHEN SCHOOLS, COACHES, PLAYERS AND FANS ARE SAYING WE ARE INCONSISTENT.