



2012-13 NFHS Volleyball Situations and MSHSAA Interpretations

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

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Corrections to Rules Book: Page 17, 4-2-2e rule reference is 4-2-4;

Corrections to Case Book and Manual: Page 52, Prematch Responsibilities in second paragraph "Each official is required to supply his/her own officiating equipment which includes two whistles (it is recommended that whistles be black), coin, lanyard, second referee's lineup card, a pen/pencil, set of red and yellow cards, and watch or timing device. Page 63, ~~if requested by the first referee~~, The second referee shall conduct the coin toss prior to the deciding set. The first referee shall motion the captains to meet with the second referee ~~near the first referee's stand~~ at the officials table and then send the teams to their respective benches. The second referee blows the whistle and communicates the results of the coin toss with the first referee. The first referee then blows the whistle and gives the appropriate signal to indicate the serving team and whistles and directs the teams to the appropriate side of the court using the same protocol as the other end-of-set procedure. The second referee confirms the timer has started the three minutes on the clock after the coin toss and R1's signal.

Corrections to Preseason Guide: Page 3, "The second referee signifies the result by extending his/her arm to the team that will have first serve, palm perpendicular to the floor, and change benches if necessary." Page 8, #2. "...of net and blocked by opponent from the back row, it is an illegal block and the opponent is awarded a point." (9-5-5)

SITUATION 1: As the teams are warming up, the R1 notices that the libero and/or the teammates are not in a solid-colored uniform top. The R1 takes no action when the match starts in regard to the uniforms. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The new rule requiring the libero and/or the teammates to be in a solid-colored uniform top is not mandatory for high school volleyball until **July 1, 2016**. Coaches are encourage to plan ahead when purchasing uniforms so if the uniform is to be used in 2016, it should be purchased to be legal under the rule as stated for 2016. (4-2-2 NOTE.)

SITUATION 2: The R2 conducts the coin toss for the deciding set in front of the officials table. The R2, facing the R1, whistles and extends his/her arm to the team that will have first serve, palm perpendicular to the floor. The R2 then signals if the teams will change courts or remain at their same benches. The R2 confirms the scorer has the proper team for the first serve of the deciding set and the timer has started the clock when the R1 whistles and directs teams to their appropriate benches. **RULING:** Correct procedure. [5-3-4d, 5-4-3b (22)]

SITUATION 3: The R1, following being signaled by the R2 of the results of the coin toss for the deciding set, whistles and signals the results of the coin toss by extending his/her arm to the team that will serve first, palm perpendicular to the floor, followed by whistle and signals the teams to change courts or remain at their same benches. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The timer starts the clock on the R1's whistle directing teams to their benches [5-3-4d, 5-4-3b (22)]

SITUATION 4: Is the following situation considered screening? Team S has three players close together (not directly in a line) with arms up, but aligned with one at the net, the other two about 6-12 inches behind her, but with minimal to no gaps between them. Team S server serves the ball directly over them and a significant height above the net. Team R's coach believes this is screening. **RULING:** Incorrect. **COMMENT:** Screening could potentially be called, but one of the criteria is the type of serve used. In any case, this is a judgment call by the official. (6-5-1)

SITUATION 5: The state association has adopted a statewide policy that provides for electronic media time-outs for matches that are transmitted electronically. The policy stipulates how many media time-outs may be included, the length (in this case 75 seconds) and how they are to be taken. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** State associations have the authority to determine the details of electronic media time-outs. This authority may include the number, length and protocol for the time-outs. (11-2-3 NOTE)



MSHSAA Volleyball Interpretations

QUESTION 1: Does the Vibram FiveFinger Sports Shoes meet the definition of an appropriate playing shoe under NFHS Volleyball Rule 4-2-6? **RULING:** This overall style of shoe could be considered appropriate but some specific models may not be appropriate because the shoe may not be fastened securely to the foot. The brown model pictured below has nothing to secure the shoe to the foot other than to tighten in the back so it would be a slipper style and would not be considered appropriate. The black model pictured below has a strap that secures the shoe to the foot and would be considered appropriate.

ILLEGAL

no strap to secure to foot



LEGAL

has strap to secure to the foot



QUESTION 2: Who is responsible for securing line judges? **RULING:** Assistant Officials (scorer, libero tracker, timer and line judges) are to be secured and provided by the host school. For line judges it should be decided and agreed upon by the host school and the visiting school's athletic directors prior to the date of the match if the visiting school prefers to provide one line judge.

QUESTION 3: The host school is using flags for their line judges this year. The flags are blue and white. **RULING:** These flags are illegal under NFHS rules. The flags are to be solid **red** and should be of a size of 12 x 12 inches and no larger than 16 x 16 inches.

QUESTION 4: A school has a ceiling-suspended net system (i.e. Porter System pictured below) with the R1's platform attached. What steps must be taken to ensure the platform is properly padded and in compliance with NFHS Volleyball Rule 3-1-3? **RULING:** Any R1 platform that is not properly padded is in violation of NFHS Rule 3-1-3 and the match shall not be played, and the state association shall be notified (See PENALTY under Rule 3-1-3 pg. 13). **COMMENT:** Porter has available panel padding made to Velcro to the referee's platform to cover the rungs of the ladder (picture on left).

In addition, Porter has several styles of individual padding for some for the other standard problems encountered by the overhead systems that are older. Covering the rungs only would not be in full compliance. The school AD should contact Ashley Moore of Porter Athletics (amoore@porterathletic.com). Each school should work to resolve these issues directly with the company. The website for Porter Athletic is www.porterathletic.com, construction, volleyball, overhead systems.



ILLEGAL – Lack of Padding



ILLEGAL –sides must be padded and should extend to cover the wheels.