



2020-2021 Volleyball Rules Modifications



The following rules modifications by the NFHS have been approved by MSHSAA for implementation for the 2020-2021 school year. The modifications outlined in this document are meant to decrease potential exposure to respiratory droplets by encouraging social distancing, limiting participation in administrative tasks to essential personnel and allowing for appropriate protective equipment.

Return to Competition

1. Volleyball Rules Considerations

- ***Pre-match Conference (1-2-4a; 1-6-2; 1-6-3; 2-1-10; 5-4-1h, k; 5-6-1; 7-1-1; 7-1-1 PENALTIES 1; 9-1a; 12-2-3)***
 - Limit attendees to one coach and one captain from each team, first referee and second referee.
 - Move the location of the pre-match conference to center court with one coach, one captain and one referee positioned on each side of the net. All individuals shall maintain current recommended social distancing guidelines.
 - Suspend the use of the coin toss to determine serve/receive. The visiting team will serve first in set 1 and alternate first serve for the remaining non-deciding sets.
 - Suspend roster submission at the pre-match conference. Rosters are submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10-minute mark.
- ***Team Benches (5-4-4b, 9-1-2, 9-1-2 NOTE, 9-3-3b)***
 - Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches between sets. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides, observing all current recommended social distancing guidelines. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present.
 - Attempt to observe current recommended social distancing guidelines by limiting bench personnel.
- ***Deciding Set Procedures [1-2-4b, 5-4-4c, 5-5-3b(26), 9-2-3c]***
 - Move the location of the deciding set coin toss to center court with team captains and the second referee maintaining the current recommended social distancing guidelines. A coin toss, called by the home team, will decide serve/receive.
 - Suspend the protocol of teams switching benches before a deciding set. In the event there is a clear and distinct disadvantage, teams may switch sides, observing current recommended social distancing guidelines. Officials will determine if a disadvantage is present.
- ***Substitution Procedures (2-1-7, 10-2-1, 10-2-3, 10-2-4)***
 - Maintain current recommended social distancing guidelines between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line.
- ***Officials Table (3-4)***
 - Limit to essential personnel which includes home team scorer, libero tracker and timer with current recommended social distancing guidelines between individuals. Visiting team personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

2. Volleyball Officials Manual Considerations

- ***Pre and Post Match Ceremony***
 - Establish volleyball specific social distancing match protocols including the elimination of handshakes before and after the match. When players are introduced, they will go immediately to their endline. After introductions are completed, they will waive to each other and move directly to their respective bench area.

3. Volleyball Rules Interpretations

- **Rule 4-1 EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES**
 - Cloth face coverings are permissible. (4-1-4)
 - Gloves are permissible. (4-1-1)
- **Rule 4-2 LEGAL UNIFORM**
 - Long sleeves are permissible. (4-2-1)
 - Long pants are permissible. [4-2-1i (1)]
 - Under garments are permissible, but must be unadorned and of a single, solid color similar in color to the predominant color of the uniform top or bottom. [4-2-1h (3), 4-2-1i (2)]
- **Rule 5-3 OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT**
 - By state association adoption, long-sleeved, all-white collared polo shirt/sweater are permissible. (5-3-1 NOTES 2)
 - Electronic whistles are permissible. (5-3-2a, b)
 - Officials shall refer to the 2020-21 MSHSAA Guidelines – Recommendations for Opening Sports/Activities document for information regarding the use of masks or face coverings. This document can be found here: [Guidelines & Recommendations](#)
 - Gloves are permissible.

4. General Guidance for Officials

- **Monitoring**
 - Officials are **NOT** responsible for monitoring activities on the sidelines, such as social distancing, hand washing, symptoms of illnesses and other such issues. *This monitoring remains with the coaching staff and school personnel.*
- **Personal Responsibilities**
 - Take temperature in the morning and then again prior to leaving home/work for a contest; if temperature is elevated above 100.3 or a level recommended by your local or state health department notify contracted school immediately.
 - If you do not feel well and COVID-19 symptoms are present, notify the contracted school, your assigner and stay at home.
 - “Vulnerable individuals” are defined by CDC as people 65 years and older and others with serious underlying health conditions. Officials fitting this description may wish to seek medical advice prior to returning to officiating.
 - Communicate with school athletic administrator about school/corporation contest expectations.
 - Upon arrival at site and throughout the contest, wash and sanitize your hands frequently.
 - Travel – considerations should be given to travel policies.
 - Do not share uniforms, towels, apparel and equipment.
 - Maintain social distancing of 3 to 6 feet while in the locker room and/or on the court.
 - Consider supplying your own hydration and snacks at the venue.