

# MHSAA Volleyball Rules Interpretations and Clarifications for 2011

The NFHS has taken a position that i-phones and the application (for the R 2) are not allowed during the match.

Earlobe gauges (used to stretch holes in the earlobe) or plastic plugs (worn in the earlobe in place of an earring) are illegal.

The gauges and plugs are considered jewelry and therefore are illegal. In addition, fish line worn in an ear pierce or nose pierce is considered illegal as well.

Volleyball players will not be allowed to wear feathers or feather extensions in their hair. This is considered adornment and is not permissible by rule.

Per the MHSAA Volleyball rules meeting (but contra 4.1.6 Situation A) sequins, beads, glitter, etc placed on the headband is illegal.

A head band may be worn but it must be made of soft material, no more than 2 inches wide and free from adornment.

## **Rule 2-2-2: Retractable Net System**

The host school has a ceiling-suspended net system. The ball contacts (a) the cables located on only one side of the net which retract the system, (b) a pole located only on one side of the net at approximately a 45 degree angle to the ceiling used to retract the system, (c) the poles located at the end of each net which are vertical extensions of the standards. In all situations, the officials rule these playable overhead obstructions and allow play to continue.

**Ruling:** (a) Correct Procedure, (b) and (c) Incorrect Procedure.

**Comment:** Cables which are used to retract a ceiling-suspended net system and located only on one side of the net are playable overhead obstructions. If the ball contacts a pole, located only on one side of the net and used to retract the system and it affects play, it shall be ruled as a possible replay at the discretion of the referees. Poles which vertically extend from the standards are treated like the standards and the ball is out-of-bounds when it contacts them.

## **Situation: Rule 3-1-1: The Net and Markings**

Prior to the match while inspecting the equipment, the first referee notices that the white net sleeve has the name of a local business and school mascot printed along the top.

**Ruling:** Legal

**Comment:** The sleeve, so long as it does not affect the height of the net or interfere with play, may have the school name, insignia, school mascot and / or advertising placed along the top by way of a decal or professional printing.

## **Situation: Rule 5-3-4e Accommodation to the Rules**

School B has a player wearing prosthesis on the left lower leg. Prior to the pre-match conference, the head coach presents the first referee with a letter of authorization from the state association stating the prosthesis is approved to be worn during competition.

**Ruling:** Correct procedure.

**Comment:** A school requesting an accommodation to the rules for medical or religious reasons for a player shall have the request approved by the state association staff in writing and present the letter of authorization to the first referee prior to or during the pre-match conference.

**Situation: Rule 4-1-8: Player Equipment**

A student is in need of wearing a hearing aid. The coach provides a request to the state association to confirm that this medical appliance may be worn during competition and requests a letter of authorization.

**Ruling:** Correct procedure

**Comment:** The letter of authorization from the MHSAA should be presented to the match officials by the coach prior to the start of the contest

**Situation: Rule 10-3-5: Player Safety**

A player on Team A is apparently injured during play and the R1 stops play with an injury time out. The player is removed from the match exhibiting signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion. Later in the match, the head coach notifies the officials that the player has been looked at by an appropriate health care provider and determined there was no concussion. The R1 allows the player entry without questioning the player's ability to play safely. At the conclusion of the match, the R1 records the situation on a report form.

**Ruling:** Correct procedure

**Comment:** The official need only stop play for the injury time-out and does not make any determination on the athlete's ability to play. The school bears the responsibility to have the player evaluated. The player shall not return to play unless an appropriate health-care provider that is identified by the school determines that the student was not concussed.

**Situation: Rule 10-4-5-a-Penalty 1 Libero Replacement**

After the whistle/signal for serve but before contact for serve, the libero for the receiving team replaces a back row player. The R1 does not call the illegal replacement immediately, but waits until the server for Team S contacts the ball before blowing the whistle for illegal replacement.

**Ruling:** Correct Procedure

**Comment:** The penalty for illegal libero replacement after the whistle/signal for serve is illegal alignment. Illegal alignment must be called after the contact of the serve.

**Situation: Rule 9-5-6-b Libero Setting the Ball**

Team A's libero sets the ball using overhead finger action on the team's second hit while on or in front of the attack line. The next (third) hit is a dump (not a spike) that is completely above the height of the net and goes into the opponent's court. The R1 lets play continue.

**Ruling:** Incorrect procedure

**Comment:** Because the ball was completely above the height of the net when the attack was completed, the correct call should be an illegal attack charged to the libero. The location of the ball when the third hit is completed determines the legality of the play, not the type of hit. If the ball is not completely above the height of the net, play continues without penalty.

**Situation: Rule 5-2-2 Officials Equipment**

The second referee (R2) arrives at the match site planning to use an electronic tablet to use in place of a paper lineup card. The R1 tells the R2 that this Device is illegal and does not allow the R2 to use it during the match.

**Ruling: Correct ruling by the R1**

**Comment:** The use of electronic devices on the court is prohibited

**Situation: Rule 9-5-4, 5, note Back Row Attack**

A back-row player on Team A completes an attack on a ball that is completely above the height of the net while on or in front of the attack line. The ball (a) completely crosses the net into Team B's court, or (b) is legally blocked by Team B. The R1 whistles an illegal back row attack when in (a) the ball completely crosses the net, and in (b) when the ball is legally touched by a Team B blocker.

**Ruling:** Correct procedure

**Situation: Rule 9-5-4, 5, note and Rule 9-7-2 Back Row Attack / Double Foul**

A back-row player on Team A completes an attack on a ball that is completely above the height of the net while on or in front of the attack line. The ball is blocked by an illegal blocker on Team B while the ball is in the plane of the net. The R1 whistles an illegal back row attack when the ball is touched by the Team B blocker.

**Ruling:** Incorrect procedure

**Comment:** The R1 should declare a double foul. The illegal back-row attack by the Team A player and the illegal block by the Team B player occur at the same instant. The R1 should have whistled the play dead, signaled each violation, and then called for a replay.

#### **LETTER OF PERMISSION REQUIRED FROM MHSAA**

Coaches & officials are reminded that players with special equipment (artificial limb, hearing transmitter, heart monitor, insulin pump, helmet for concussion management, etc.) must have a letter of permission from the MHSAA. Coaches will be responsible to have this letter with them to present to officials at each contest. To receive letter from MHSAA: send request & description of device/how secured, name/grade/age of athlete, etc.

#### **SUSPENDED NET SYSTEMS**

**Correction to rule book, page 48-** Please note a correction to the following sentence within the text of 4.

Suspended Net Systems: ~~A system also having poles on one side of the net used to retract the system are also considered playable overhead obstructions.~~ may result in replay when contacted by the ball.

# 2011 MHSAA Volleyball Rules Interpretations & Updates

## 1-3 new 3

Outlines the procedure for scoring when a vacant position rotates to serve in the right back position due to the team playing with fewer than six players as a result of illness, injury or disqualification.

## 2-1 new 9 and 10

Adds the definitions for playable and nonplayable areas and stipulates the first referee has the authority to identify other area(s) as unsuitable for play.

## 3-1-1

The overall width and length of the net may now fall within a range with the width of the net overall being 36 inches to 39 inches and the length being 31 feet, 6 inches to 33 feet.

## 3-1-1

The plain white tape along the top of the net shall be 2 inches up to 2¾ inches wide. A white net sleeve, no wider than 3 3/8 inches, with the school name, insignia, school mascot and/or advertising may be installed along the top of the net.

## 4-1-5

Expands the style of items that may be worn in the hair to include unadorned flat barrettes no longer than 2 inches.

## 5-1-3

Once the match competition is concluded, the match officials continue to maintain administrative responsibilities through the completion of any required reports or correspondence related to action occurring during the match. If necessary, the state association may intercede due to unusual incidents after officials' jurisdiction ends or the match is terminated prior to conclusion of regulation competition.

## 5-2-1 new NOTE 2

The individual state association may make a temporary adjustment in the official's uniform and permit the wearing of a white shirt or sweater to address cold conditions within competition facilities.

## Volleyball Signals #1, Case Book

The illegal alignment signal shall be used for a libero replacement after the whistle/signal for serve. It is also used to communicate a penalty being assessed for failure to submit an accurate lineup.

## 2011-12 MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

### 4-1 New Note

Clarifies the authority and criteria for the state association to authorize exceptions to the playing rules to provide a reasonable accommodation to individual participants.

### 8-1-1

Reference to a "let " serve is removed from the rules and replaced with language indicating a serve contacting and crossing the net entirely within the antennas remains in play.

### 9-5-5 Note

An illegal back-row attack is called when the ball completely crosses the net or is contacted by the opponent.

## Volleyball Points of Emphasis

1. Referee stand
2. Libero uniform
3. Host school providing assistant officials

4. Suspended net systems
5. Are plastic studs/spacers allowed in the nose, lip or ear? NO  
Is it legal for a player to have a string, thread or monofilament line looped through a pierced hole? NO

### **Pre-match Protocol at Post Season Volleyball Matches**

20 minutes should be on the clock and the clock should be running:

- 20 – 16 min. Shared time on the court, no volleyballs crossing the net.
- 16 – 12 min. Home team takes the court.
- 12 – 08 min. Visiting team takes the court.
- 08 – 04 min. Home team takes the court.
- 04 – 00 min. Visiting team takes the court.

Immediately after timed warm-ups, teams report to the appropriate end line.

Pre-match activities then begin:

- National Anthem
- Introduction of players

Players stay on or near end line – do not shake hands with opposing coach or referee.

After introductions and the National anthem, R1 whistles and motions (first) the captains and then the rest of the team, to the net. After the handshake, the non-players go to the team bench. The starters go to their floor position. Then the R2 checks the lineups for each team (from the lineup card). First set begins.

### **Unsporting Conduct**

- a. Warning (yellow card) for first minor offenses.
- b. Unsporting penalty (red card) for first serious offense or second minor offense and loss of rally/point awarded to opponent.
- c. Disqualification (yellow and red card) for first flagrant offense, second serious offense; or third minor offense and loss of rally/point awarded to opponent. Offender is disqualified from further participation in match and may be removed from the vicinity of the team bench.
- d. Forfeit results when:
  1. Disqualified individual violates conduct rules following disqualification.
  2. Coach is disqualified and removed from premises and no other authorized school personnel is available to take the bench.
  3. Team refuses to play when directed to do so by the R1.

All cards carry over from set to set throughout the match.

### **2011 TOURNAMENT DATES**

Districts – Week of Oct. 31  
Regionals – Nov. 8 (Semis) and 10 (Finals)  
Quarterfinals – Nov. 15  
Semifinals – Nov. 17-18  
Finals – Nov. 19

### **COMPETITION:**

18 days of competition  
Maximum of 21 sets per day  
ALL dual varsity must be 3/5  
ALL levels must use rally scoring

\*A student shall not play for two or more teams on any level (varsity or subvarsity, scrimmage or contest) in the same sport on the same day.

