



2025-26 NFHS VOLLEYBALL RULES 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.

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, Publisher, NFHS Publications © 2025

SITUATION 1: No. 12 and No. 7 on Team A have hair tinsel weaved into their hair – not creating a safety concern. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** Hair tinsel is not glitter and does not pose a safety concern. Glitter that can be transferred to the ball or fall onto the floor is illegal equipment. (4-1-8)

SITUATION 2: The head coach of Team A turns in a lineup that has no libero listed. While the R2 is checking the lineup, player No. 5 is in a libero jersey and is standing on the sideline waiting to enter. The R2 confirms with the coach that No. 5 should have been listed as the libero and asks the scorer and assistant scorer to record No. 5 as the libero on the scoresheet and libero tracking sheet. No penalty is assessed. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COM-**

MENT: If a team submits its lineup with no libero listed, the coach may, without delay, indicate to the second referee the player who will play as libero. The scorer and assistant scorer record the libero number on the scoresheet and libero tracking sheet. No penalty is assessed for the clerical error. If the missing libero is discovered after the set begins, the team must play without a libero for that set. (7-1-4)

SITUATION 3: Team A's back-row setter jumps to set a second ball above the height of the net and double contacts the ball directly into the hands of a Team B blocker reaching completely over the plane of the net. **RULING:** Over-the-net fault on Team B blocker. **COMMENT:** Team B blocker illegally contacts the ball which is completely

on the opponent's side of the net. The double contact by Team A's setter was legal since the ball remained on Team A's side of the net for a Team A player to next play the ball. (9-5-1c, 9-6-3)

SITUATION 4: Team A's back-row setter jumps to set a second ball above the height of the net and double contacts the ball directly into the hands of a Team B blocker after the ball has entered the plane of the net. **RULING:** Illegal attack fault on Team A setter. **COMMENT:** Team A's setter commits an illegal attack as soon as the ball is legally contacted by the opponent, and this fault takes precedence over the double contact fault. (9-5-4)

UPDATED 08-13-2025



September 3, 2025

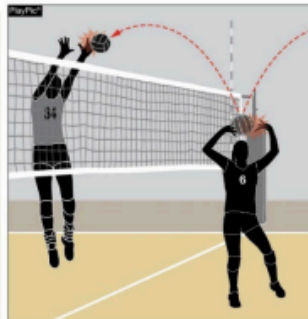
NFHS Volleyball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Ball-handling – The situations below can be found in the 2025-26 NFHS Case Book or the 2025-26 NFHS Rules Interpretations. They were developed to illustrate potential situations that could arise on a team's second contact when a double is committed. The change to rule 9-4-8 allows multiple contacts on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

SITUATION 1: During play, the setter hustles to receive an errant pass and contacts the ball multiple times during one attempt to play the ball with an overhand pass for the team's second contact. (a) The volleyball enters the plane of the net and a teammate (attacker) and an opponent (blocker) simultaneously contact the ball; (b) The volleyball enters the plane of the net and the opponent (blocker) contacts the ball first. **RULING:** (a) Legal – play continues; (b) Illegal – double hit. **COMMENT:** Multiple contacts are permitted on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate. Simultaneous contact by both teams is considered legal. Contact by the opponent after the attacking team's multiple contact is a fault by the attacking team. (9-4-8c)



**Simultaneous Contact –
Play-on**



Double Hit - Fault



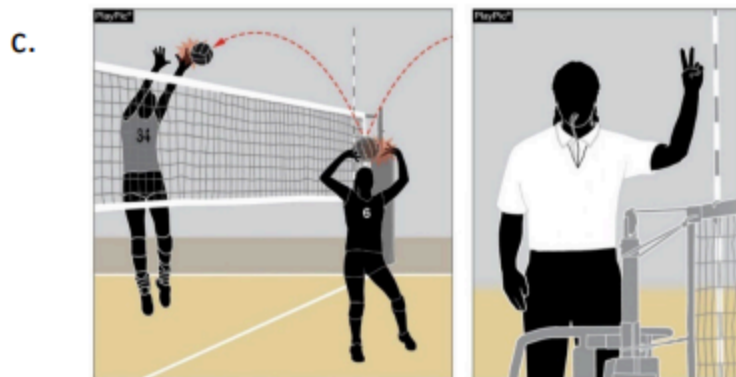
SITUATION 2: The setter on Team R runs down an errant first contact and contacts the ball first with the right and then the left hand on an overhand pass that is next contacted: (a) by Team R's RF; (b) simultaneously by Team R's RF and Team S's LF; (c) by Team S's LF. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal; (c) multiple contact fault. **COMMENT:** On the second team hit, multiple contacts are permitted if the next contact is by a teammate. Simultaneous contact is considered contact by a teammate. (9-4-8)



Legal Contact – Play-on



Simultaneous Contact – Play-on



Double Hit - Fault

SITUATION 3: The libero for Team R is hustling after a mishandled first contact and on one attempt to play the ball makes contact with the wrists and then the shoulder. The ball is next contacted by a teammate who sends it over the net to the opponent's court. Play continues. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The team's second contact can be multiple contacts as long as it is on one attempt to play the ball and the subsequent contact is made by a teammate. (9-4-8)



SITUATION 4: Team S's CF attempts to set the second team contact to a teammate and first contacts the ball with the left and then the right hand before sending the ball: (a) over the net and out of bounds; (b) into the antennae; (c) off the net tape and to a teammate who sends the ball over the net on the team's third contact. **RULING:** (a) multiple contact fault; (b) out-of-bounds fault; (c) legal. **COMMENT:** As soon as the ball has crossed the plane of the net after the second team contact, a multiple contact fault is called. Since the ball has not crossed the plane of the net before the antenna contact in (b), the call is out-of-bounds. (9-4-8)

SITUATION 5: Team A's back-row setter jumps to set a second ball above the height of the net and double contacts the ball directly into the hands of a Team B blocker reaching completely over the plane of the net. **RULING:** Over-the-net fault on Team B blocker. **COMMENT:** Team B blocker illegally contacts the ball which is completely on the opponent's side of the net. The double contact by Team A's setter was legal since the ball remained on Team A's side of the net for a Team A player to next play the ball. (9-5-1c, 9-6-3)

SITUATION 6: Team A's back-row setter jumps to set a second ball above the height of the net and double contacts the ball directly into the hands of a Team B blocker after the ball has entered the plane of the net. **RULING:** Illegal attack fault on Team A setter. **COMMENT:** Team A's setter commits an illegal attack as soon as the ball is legally contacted by the opponent, and this fault takes precedence over the double contact fault. (9-5-4)

NEW SITUATION: No. 3 on the receiving team double contacts the ball on the first contact. The setter, No. 6, chases down the errant pass and double contacts the second team contact sending the ball spinning toward the team bench on the receiving team's side of the net. In an attempt to keep the ball in the air, No. 12: (a) kicks the ball – redirecting the spinning ball over the net; (b) reaches out with a fist and punches the ball – redirecting the spinning ball over the net. In both situations, the ball remains in-bounds when played to the serving team's side of the net. **RULING:** Legal – no fault, play continues. **COMMENT:** The double contacts were made legally on the first and second contacts as the ball remained on the receiving team's side of the net after each contact. As long as the third contact is legal – there is no fault on the play. (9-4-8)

NEW SITUATION: The ball is double contacted by Team A on the team's second contact, sending the ball into the plane of the net. While the ball is in the vertical plane of the net, the back-row setter on Team B blocks the ball. **RULING:** Illegal Block. **COMMENT:** The double contact is not called since the ball is illegally contacted by Team B while in the plane of the net. Team A still had a chance to play the ball on the third contact when illegally contacted by Team B.



September 10, 2025

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Illegal Libero Replacement

The penalty administration for the first referee (R1) and second referee (R2) when the libero exchanges after the whistle for serve was adjusted to make it more consistent with other unnecessary delay penalties. It is important to remember that either the receiving or serving team can commit this fault. Both the R1 and R2 must be ready to make the call.

Officials Mechanics – Unnecessary Delay (Officials Manual 5.7.1)

Unnecessary Delay – Administrative Cards: **The first referee shall administer the administrative cards for unnecessary delay and assess penalties when required.** The mechanics for signaling are as follows:

First Referee initiates call (Signal 20): When the R1 initiates the unnecessary delay call for a late libero replacement (serving team), the R1 whistles and raises the hand on the side of the offending team beside head, palm facing in and holds the appropriate card on the wrist of the raised hand. **The second referee does not repeat the procedure.**



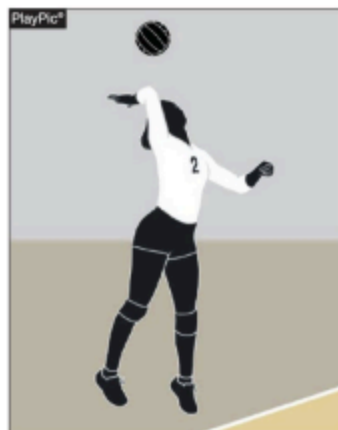
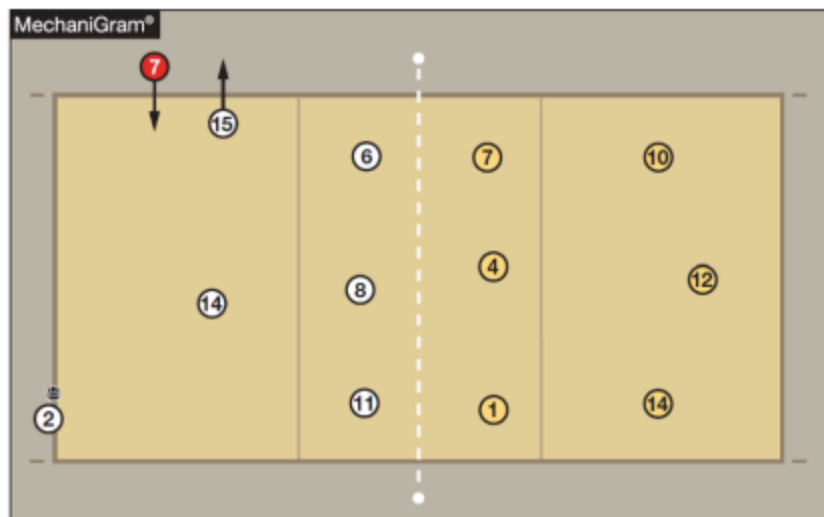
Second Referee initiates call: When the R2 initiates the unnecessary delay call for a late libero replacement (receiving team), the R2 (already on the receiving/offending team side of the net) whistles and holds up the appropriate card in the hand closest to the non-offending team, placed against the back of the wrist of the other hand, which is held at head height, palm facing in on the side of the offending team. **The first referee administers the card in the same manner.**



CORRECTION: CASE BOOK PART I – Interpretations on the 2025-26 Rules Changes, pg. 5

SITUATION 1: The R2 identifies an illegal libero replacement on Team A: (a) prior to Team A's contact for serve; (b) after Team A's contact for serve. **RULING:** (a) unnecessary delay; (b) illegal alignment. **COMMENT:** An illegal libero replacement identified before contact for serve is an unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card for the first offense or administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set), which is administered immediately. If the R1 has already authorized the serve, the R1 will whistle to prevent the serve, administer and issue a replay after administering the unnecessary delay, correct the alignment and resume play with the same server. If the illegal libero replacement is not identified until after contact for serve the result is Illegal alignment (loss of rally/point) for Team A. (10-4 PENALTIES 1)

Rationale: There is no contact for serve, only the authorization of service when the violation occurs, so play resumes with a re- authorization of service – **not a replay or re-serve.**



SITUATION 2: Team A's libero No. 3 replaces No. 19 in the center back position. Team A wins the rally. Team A's No. 19 replaces libero No. 3 in the back row and libero No. 3 moves to the serving position, without leaving the court, replacing No. 6 who was the right front and would be the next server. This will be Libero No. 3's second serving position. The referee whistles before contact for serve, issues an unnecessary delay, and corrects the illegal replacement. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Although the libero is allowed to replace any back row player, the referees realize this will be an illegal replacement as the libero can only serve in one position. If identified prior to the serve, the referees may correct the illegal replacement and issue the unnecessary delay. If not noticed until after the service contact, the result is illegal alignment. (10-4 PENALTIES 1)

SITUATION 3: No. 12 for Team A is serving, and Team A loses the rally. No. 12 stays in the right back position on the receiving team when the R1 whistles and signals for serve by Team B. Before contact for serve, the libero for Team A runs; (a) onto the court to replace No. 12 in the right back position; (b) toward the court but stops and returns to the bench. **RULING:** (a) Unnecessary delay; (b) no penalty. **COMMENT:** In (a), the second referee will initiate the unnecessary delay call since the violation occurs on the receiving team. The first referee will repeat the signal. In (b), the libero and No. 12 did not complete an illegal libero exchange since the libero never entered the court.



September 17, 2025

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EQUIPMENT

Legal equipment is an annual concern at both the state and national level and can be a daily concern for officials adjudicating matches throughout the week. The NFHS Volleyball Rules have evolved over the last few years allowing limited jewelry above the chin. Below are a few situations addressing various equipment concerns states have seen in recent weeks.

Equipment & Accessories (4-1):

SITUATION 1: The setter for Team A enters the court to start the first set wearing, (a) soft palm protectors on both hands, (b) a towel tucked into and hanging from their waistband. **RULING:** (a) And (b) legal. **COMMENT:** In (a), the palm protectors are soft and do not create an advantage or increase the risk of injury to the player or others. In (b), a towel that stays securely tucked into the waistband is legal. If the towel continuously falls onto the playing surface, the referee may assess an unnecessary delay and prohibit the use of the towel while the ball is live for the remainder of the match. (4-1-1, 4-1-5)

A.

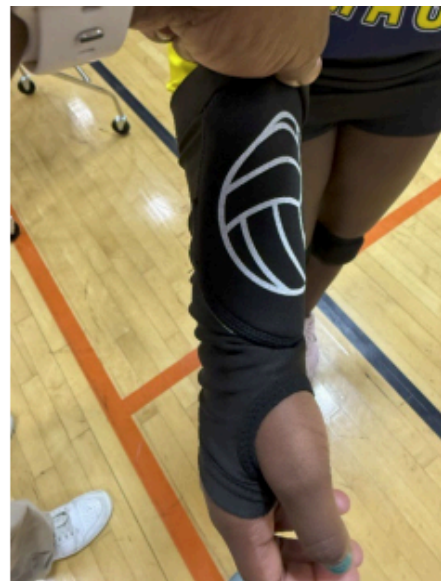


B.



SITUATION 2: Several players on Team A are wearing the sleeve pictured. The sleeve goes up to the player's elbow and under the volleyball graphic there is thin padding. **RULING:** Legal.

COMMENT: The passing sleeves are soft and do not create an advantage or increase the risk of injury to the player or others. (4-1-1, 4-1-5)



SITUATION 3 (Case Book 4.2.1 SITUATION H): Two players on Team A are wearing compression sleeves that are different in color from the uniform top and are different colors between players. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** Compression sleeves, knee pads and socks are not considered part of the uniform that must be of a like or similar color or the same color between teammates.

SITUATION 4: At the prematch conference, the coach for Team A verified the legality of Team A's players. During warm-up, however, it is discovered that a player is wearing one of the styles below. **RULING:** Refer to the key below the chart – Green arrows represent legal jewelry; Red arrows represent illegal jewelry. **COMMENT:** A player shall not wear illegal equipment during warm-up. Failure to comply with the verbal warning results in an unsporting conduct. Any other illegal equipment worn by a player attempting or entering the set by the same team during that match will be charged to the team with a loss of rally/point. (4-1 NOTE 1, 4-2 PENALTIES 1, 4)



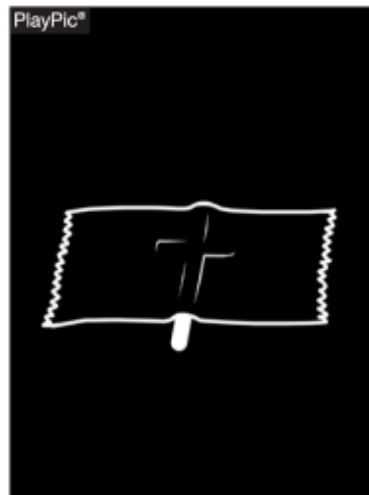
SITUATION 5 (Case Book 4.1.7 SITUATION B): A player attempts to enter the set wearing athletic tape over: (a) a medical-alert bracelet that is taped to the wrist; (b) hoop earrings; (c) small stud earrings; (d) a bracelet that cannot be removed for religious reasons taped to the wrist. When it becomes apparent that the tape is covering jewelry, the coach is assessed an unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card) for the first offense or administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set. **RULING:** Correct procedure for (b). No penalty for (a), (c) or (d). In (c), the tape shall be removed. **COMMENT:** Stud/post-like earrings are allowed above the chin but cannot be taped. The official shall require the tape be removed to ensure that legal equipment is under the tape. A medical-alert must be taped to the body and may be visible. The rules do not specify where the bracelet should be taped, but it is important that medical needs can be noticed easily by health-care professionals. Religious items shall be taped to the body and if possible, worn under the uniform.



Illegal – Unnecessary Delay



Illegal – Remove tape



No penalty for medical or religious jewelry taped to the body.

SITUATION 6 (Case Book 4.1.7 SITUATION C): During warm-ups a referee notices a player wearing: (a) rubber spacers in both ears, or (b) dermal implants with small jewelry stones near the player's eyebrows. The referee determines these to be legal. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Stud or post-like jewelry above the chin is allowed.

SITUATION 7: During warm-ups a referee notices a player: (a) wearing large circle gauges in both earlobes, or (b) small snug fitting hoop earrings. The referee determines these to be illegal.

RULING: Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Ear gauges and hoops of any size are not allowed. If a player's earlobe is stretched out due to a gauge, they should remove any gauge and tape their earlobe to decrease risk of injury.



September 24, 2025

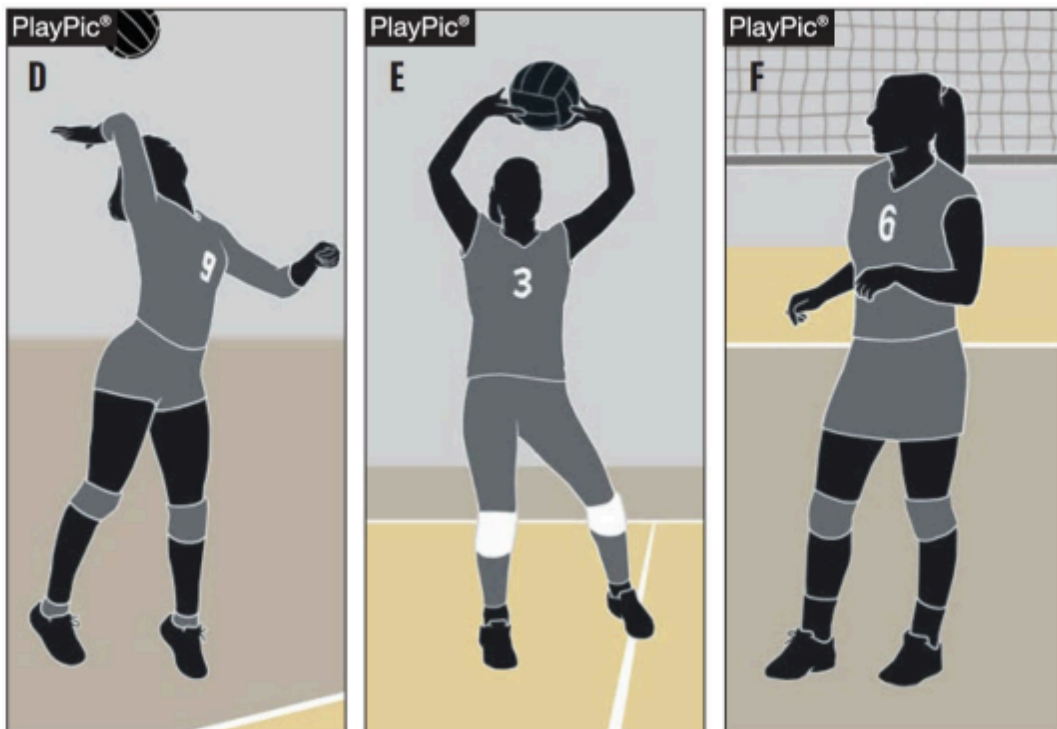
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UNIFORMS

The NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee takes uniform rules very seriously as they know that the decisions they make to ensure officials can properly adjudicate matches have an impact on school budgets. The NFHS highly recommends that coaches and athletic administrators work with their state associations when selecting new uniforms to ensure their legality.

SITUATION 1: Uniforms on Team A are alike except: (a) sleeve length on jerseys vary; (b) some jerseys are faded; (c) players are wearing different styles of bottoms. **RULING:** All are legal.

COMMENT: Multiple styles of uniform tops and bottoms may be worn as long as they are like-colored. If a libero is used, the libero uniform top must clearly contrast from the predominant color(s) of the team uniform. (4-2-2)

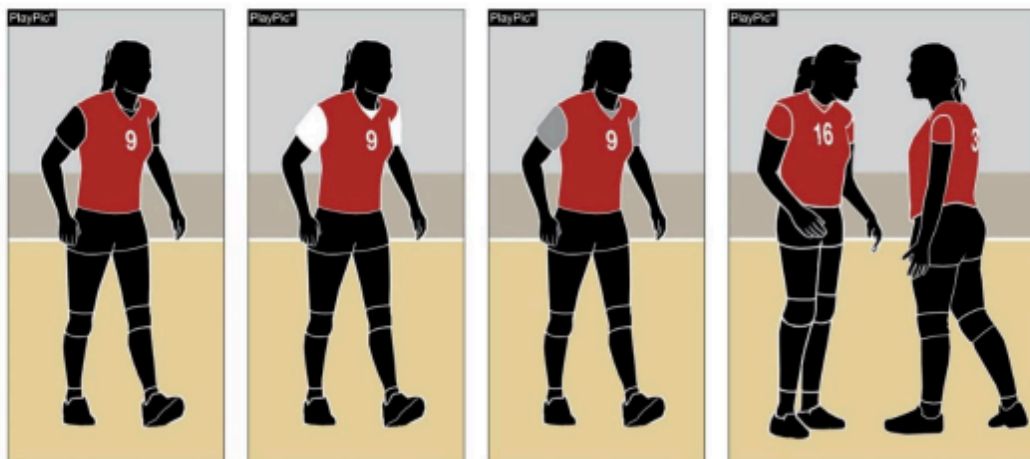


SITUATION 2A: Team A's uniforms are faded gray to black, with numbers that are yellow with a double border trim (the uniform color and yellow). **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** Single and double border/trim is legal, but the entire trim can be no wider than one-half inch at its widest point. The body of the number must clearly contrast from the uniform regardless of trim.

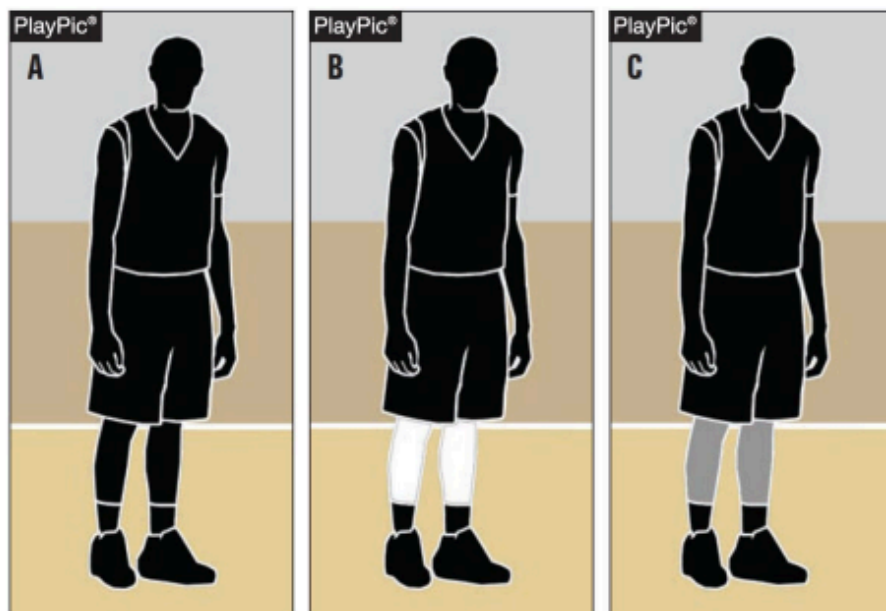


SITUATION 2B: Team A's uniforms include the above graphic located on the upper left sleeve. **RULING:** Illegal. **COMMENT:** Only the school's name, nickname, logo, mascot and/or team member's name are permitted on the uniform top and/or bottom. Established dates are not allowed on the uniform unless they are part of the recognized school logo or an approved commemorative patch not to exceed 4 square inches. (4-2-1e, 4-2-1g)

SITUATION 3: The players on Team A are wearing shirts under their sleeveless red uniform tops. Players are wearing: (a) black short-sleeve undershirts; (b) white short-sleeve undershirts; (c) gray short-sleeve undershirts; (d) red short-sleeve undershirts. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** All players wearing a visible undergarment must wear the same color (the predominant color of the uniform top, solid black, white or gray). The libero does not have to match the teammates. [4-2-1h(3)]



SITUATION 4: Extending below a player's uniform bottom are: (a) solid black leggings; (b) solid white leggings; (c) solid gray leggings. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** The undergarment shorts must be the same color as the predominant color of the uniform bottom, solid black, white or gray. All team members must wear the same color undergarment. [4-2-1i(2)]



SITUATION 5: Team A wins the coin toss and elects to serve. The officials notice Team A is wearing illegal uniforms that cannot be fixed. Loss of rally/point is awarded to Team B. **RULING:** Correct Procedure. **COMMENT:** Team B will serve first up 1-0. Team A will rotate on Team B's next loss of rally. (4-2 PENALTY 5)

SITUATION 6: Team A is wearing t-shirts over their jersey's during warm-ups and the referees do not notice that the entire team is wearing illegal uniforms. During the first set, the second referee calls a net violation on Team A and notices the numbers are difficult to read and are in fact illegal. The second referee completes the penalty administration and continues the set without penalty. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Once the first set begins and the officials did not apply the appropriate penalty before the match, play continues. At the conclusion of the match, the officials should notify Team A's head coach of their mistake, how the uniforms are illegal and that they will be notifying the state association. (4-2 PENALTY 5)



October 1, 2025

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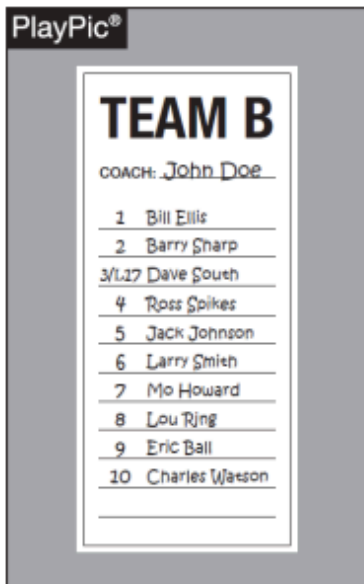
Roster/Lineup

Coaches: It is the coach's responsibility to ensure all potential players are listed on the team roster and the roster is submitted to the second referee during the prematch conference. Coaches are also responsible for submitting lineups on time and maintaining the integrity of the game by not attempting to view the opposing team's lineup between sets.

Officials: It is the officials' responsibility to check the team rosters and lineups for accuracy before turning them over to the official scorer. When checking rosters, referees should check to make sure the number of players correlates with the number of players on the roster. When checking lineups, the referee should make sure there are no duplicate numbers, see if a libero is being used in the set and the number is listed in the proper place, ensure that a captain is designated and, if using, write the submitted lineup on the referee's lineup card(s), before ensuring all lineups are recorded properly in the scorebook.

SITUATION 1: Between sets two and three, the head coach for Team A (home team) asks the scorer for the opponent's lineup before the one-minute mark between sets. The scorer informs the head coach that the lineups are not to be shared until after both teams have submitted their lineups, they have been entered on the scoresheet and time has elapsed to make changes. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Coaches should not request the lineup of the opposing team before they have submitted their lineup, and time has expired to make changes without penalty. It should not be the responsibility of the scorer to remind coaches of this procedure as it is the responsibility of coaches to uphold the integrity of the game. (Officials Manual 7.1.2)

Team	<u>South Greenville</u>
Set #	<u>2</u>
Libero #	<u>9</u>
Serve	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Receive	<input type="checkbox"/>
I	<u>2</u>
II	<u>4</u>
III	<u>6</u>
IV	<u>8c</u>
V	<u>12</u>
VI	<u>14</u>



SITUATION 2: During the first set, player No. 55 on Team A enters the substitution zone and the scorer notifies the second referee that No. 55 is not listed on the roster. A loss of rally/point is awarded to Team B. Later in the same set No. 20 on Team A enters the substitution zone and the scorer again notifies the R2 that No. 20 is not on the roster. A second loss of rally/point is awarded to Team B. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Coaches should include all potential players on the team roster regardless of if they are in attendance to start the match. In order to avoid multiple penalties for an incorrect roster, the R2 should confirm with both coaches when the rosters are submitted that all potential players are entered on the roster and again if a player must add during the match. (7-1-1 PENALTIES 3)

SITUATION 3: During the first set, players No. 55 and No. 20 on Team A enter the substitution zone. The scorer notifies the second referee that No. 55 and No. 20 are not listed on the roster. A loss of rally/point is awarded to Team B. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Only one penalty point is awarded for multiple roster additions if discovered during the same dead ball. If a coach knows they have omitted multiple players from the roster, they should notify the R2 and scorer during the same stoppage to avoid multiple penalties. (7-1-1 PENALTIES 3)



October 8, 2025

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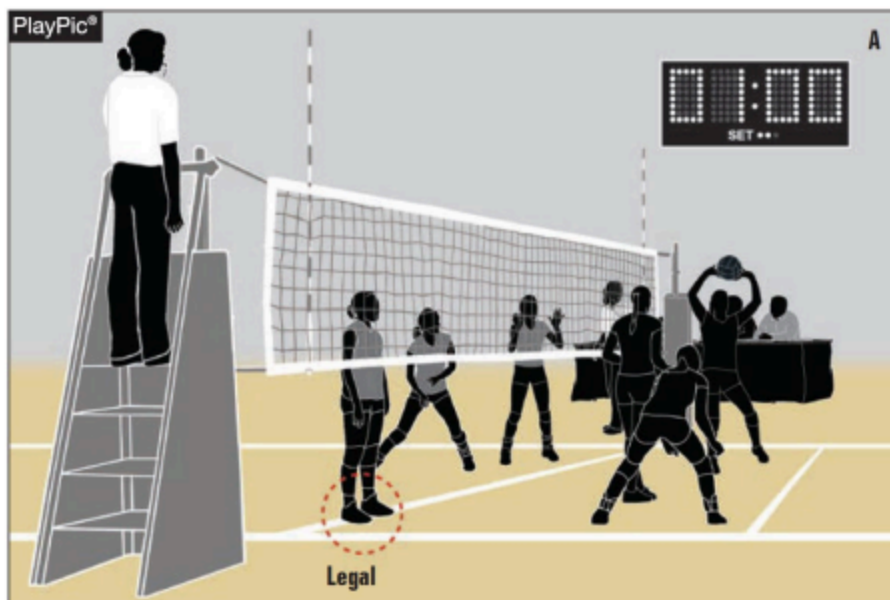
NET PLAY

According to the 2023-24 National High School Sports-Related Injury Study (High School RIO) the most commonly injured body part in girls volleyball was the ankle and the outside hitter, middle blocker and setter were the most commonly injured positions. Due to the higher risk of injuries from play at and around the net, the NFHS Rules Committee continues to maintain strict rules around net play – specifically net faults and center line faults.

CENTER LINE FAULT

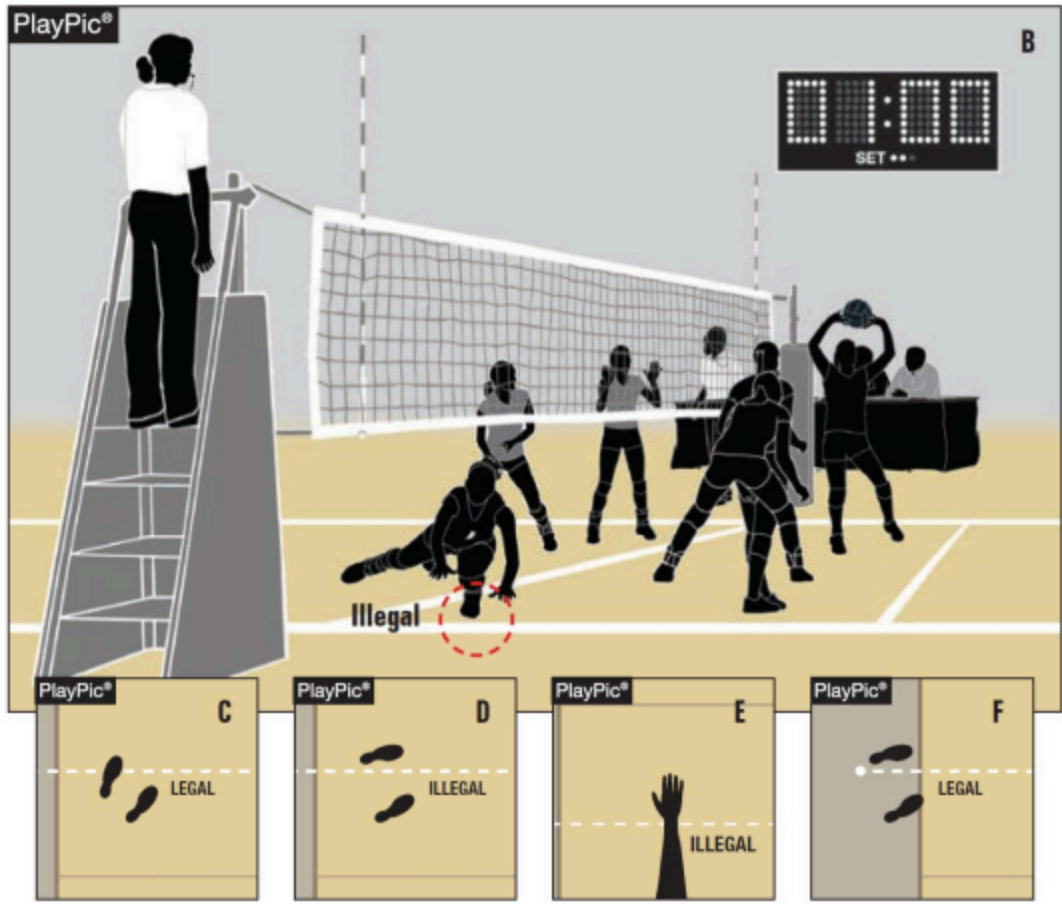
SITUATION 1: A defensive blocker is standing on the center line while the action on the other side of the net is: (a) away from the blocker; (b) near the blocker. **RULING:** (a) Legal; (b) Legal provided the blocker does not interfere with the opponent's attempt to play the ball.

COMMENT: Players may touch the floor across the center line with one or both feet provided part of the foot/feet remains on or above the center line. A net fault occurs if contact with an opponent interferes with the opponent's legitimate effort to play the ball. [9-5-7, 9-6-7d(1)]



SITUATION 2: A defensive blocker stumbles recovering to position and the blocker's left foot lands completely over the center line (PlayPic B/D) while the action on the other side of the net is: (a) away from the blocker; (b) near the blocker. **RULING:** (a) and (b) Illegal. **COMMENT:** A player may not contact the floor across the center line with the foot/hand unless they have part of the foot/hand on or above the center line regardless of where the ball is. (9-5-7)

SITUATION 3: A1 hustles after a first contact by a teammate and plays the ball, still on Team A's side of the net, before A1's foot completely crosses the extension of the center line outside the court between the sideline and standard (PlayPic F). **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** A player may cross the extension of the center line outside the court at any time provided the player does not interfere with play by the opposing team. (9-5-8)

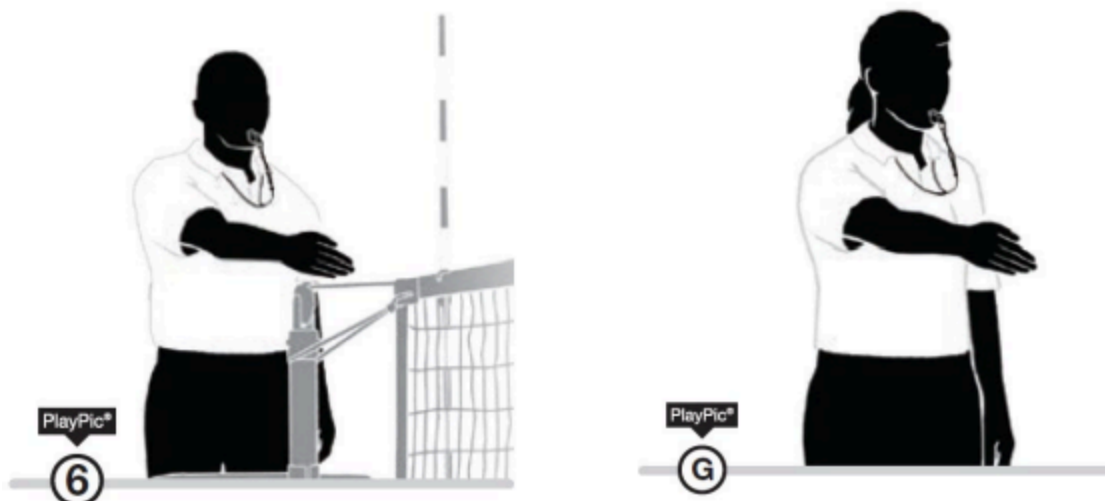


NET FAULT

MECHANIC CHANGE – Net Fault/Net Serve: Hold the arm outstretched on the side of the violating team with open hand, fingers together and palm toward the net. **The first referee touches the net/cable with the hand on the side of the fault.** (Officials Manual Signal 6)

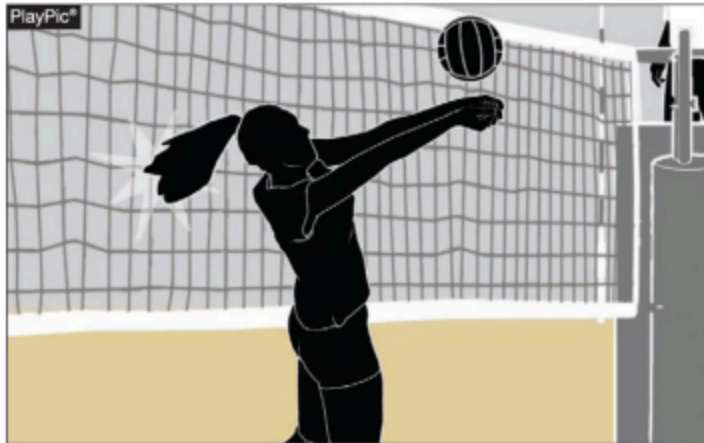
NOTE 1: If the location of the referee's stand does not allow for the R1 to reach the net or cable, it is appropriate for the R1 to touch the pole itself.

NOTE 2: The R2 signal for Net Fault has not changed – The R2 does not contact the net when signaling. (Officials Manual Signal G)



SITUATION 4: The outside hitter for Team A fakes an attack and contacts: (a) the net, or (b) the antenna. The ball is played to the right-side hitter and the outside hitter's contact with the net had no impact on the play. **RULING:** (a) and (b) Net fault. **COMMENT:** A player may not contact any part of the net including net cables or net antennas regardless of where the action is. (9-6-7a)

SITUATION 5: The setter, No. 31, is wearing a towel tucked into their waistband during play. (a) The towel; or (b) No. 31's hair; touches the net while playing the ball. **RULING:** (a) Net fault; (b) No fault. **COMMENT:** When any part of the player's body (except loose hair), uniform or equipment touches the net it is a net fault. (9-6-7a)





October 15, 2025

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OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS

The recommended minimum height for the area above the court to be clear of any obstructions is 23 feet (or 7 meters). Because high school gyms are not uniform in design and multifunctional in nature, the rules governing playable/nonplayable areas are established as a framework for evaluating facilities.

Officials, during their prematch routine, should inspect the facility for potential playing hazards and determine playable and nonplayable areas including overhead obstructions. Any ground rules established for a particular site should be communicated with the coaches and team captains during the prematch meeting.

SITUATION 1: Playing on the court pictured, Team R contacts the ball and it: (a) strikes the underside of the track on Team R's side of the court and next played by a teammate; (b) strikes the vertical bars of the hand railing around the elevated track on Team R's side of the court and next played by a teammate; (c) lands on the elevated track and becomes motionless; (d) becomes lodged in the rafters on the underside of the track. **RULING:** (a) Play on; (b) and (c) out-of-bounds; (d) replay. **COMMENT:**

The overhead track is an overhead obstruction over a playable area. Team R may continue to play the ball after contact with the underside of the obstruction. When the ball becomes motionless in an overhead obstruction over a playable area a replay is signaled. The side railing of the elevated track is considered the wall and contact to or over the railing is considered out-of-bounds. [2-2, 2-3a, 9-8-1f(3)]



SITUATION 2: Team R contacts the ball and it strikes a large ceiling fan hanging over Team R's side of the court that is: (a) on and circulating; (b) off and stationary. The ball remains on Team R's side of the court and is next played by a teammate. **RULING:** Play on. **COMMENT:** The ceiling fan is an overhead obstruction over a playable area. Team R may continue to play the ball after contact with the obstruction.

SITUATION 3: Team R contacts the ball and it strikes a large ceiling fan that is on and circulating hanging over Team R's side of the court. The ceiling fan sends the ball: (a) over the net to Team S's side of the court; (b) into the bleachers (nonplayable area). **RULING:** Replay. **COMMENT:** Similar to when a player's legitimate effort to legally play the ball, in the judgment of the referee, is affected by a ball becoming motionless on/in an overhead obstruction over a playable area – a ball's movement and trajectory is severely impacted by the circulating ceiling fan therefore a replay is called. [9-8-1f(3)]



October 22, 2025

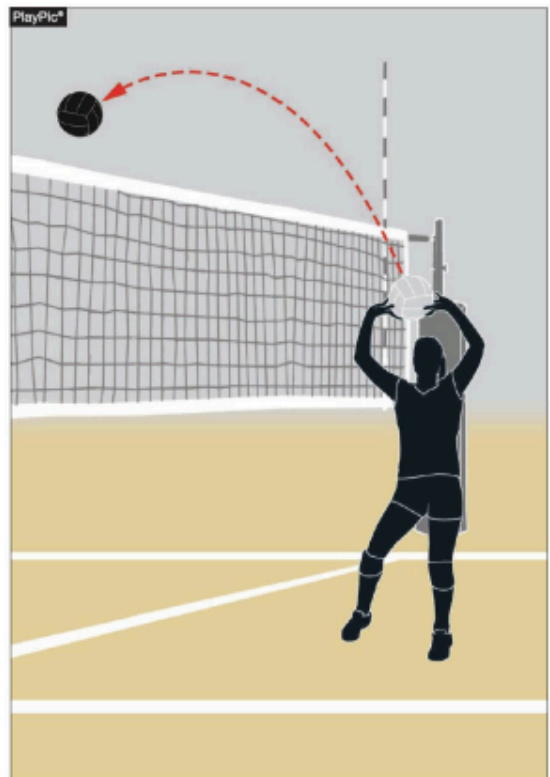
NFHS Volleyball Weekly Rule Interpretations

LIBERO RULES

The libero is a back-row player who is a designated defensive specialist. The rules governing the libero position have evolved to allow for more opportunities for the libero to participate in various aspects of the game, while still maintaining the integrity of the position. **Officials** must monitor libero replacements, positioning and actions throughout a match. **Coaches** must teach proper replacement procedures and appropriate actions and positioning during play.

SITUATION 1: The libero for Team R, standing in front of the attack line, contacts the ball while the ball is below the height of the net using a two-hand finger pass. The ball enters the plane of the net and is next blocked by an opponent. **RULING:** Legal.

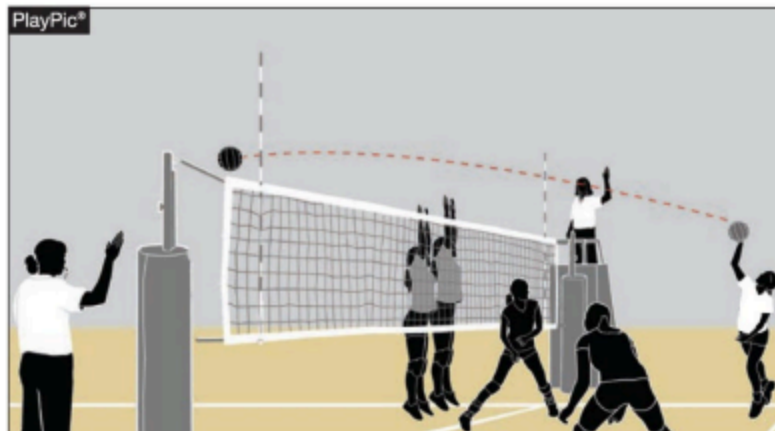
COMMENT: Back row players, including the libero, may complete an attack (any action other than a block or a serve that directs the ball toward the opponent's court) in front of the attack line as long as the ball is below the height of the net upon contact. (9-5-4)



SITUATION 2: The libero for Team R contacts the ball in front of the attack line while the ball is below the height of the net using a two-hand finger pass. The ball is next attacked by a teammate: (a) above the height of the net; (b) below the height of the net. **RULING:** (a) Illegal back-row attack; (b) legal. **COMMENT:** The libero shall not set the ball using an overhand finger pass while on or in front of the attack line extended, resulting in a completed attack above the height of the net. (9-5-6b)



SITUATION 3: The setter for Team S is pulled off the net and sets the libero in the backrow for the third contact for Team S. The libero jumps and completes an attack from behind the attack line while the ball is: (a) partially above the height of the net; (b) completely above the height of the net. **RULING:** (a) Legal; (b) Illegal back-row attack. **COMMENT:** The libero cannot complete an attack from anywhere if, at the moment of contact, the ball is entirely above the height of the net. (9-5-6a)



SITUATION 4: Team R has already received an unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card) for a late lineup to begin set two. During the same set, the R2 identifies an illegal libero replacement on Team R prior to Team S's contact for serve.

RULING: Unnecessary delay (administrative red card).

COMMENT: An illegal libero replacement identified before contact for serve is an unnecessary delay. This is Team R's second unnecessary delay of the set which results in an administrative red card. If the R1 has already authorized the serve, the R1 will whistle to prevent the serve by Team S, administer the unnecessary delay (award a point to Team S), correct the alignment and resume play with the same server for Team S. (9-9 PENALTIES 2, 10-4 PENALTIES 1)

