

Below you will find questions from previous years organized by NFHS Rule. You can also use your "find" feature (<Control F>) to search for keywords or phrases in this document.

Rule 1: The Game

Question 1: Last night after the coaches' & captains' meeting, after the coin toss and the teams were dismissed, I had the timer start the clock. The visiting coach said the timed warm-ups were not to start until the girls actually started warming up with a ball. I told him that time starts once the meeting is over. Was this correct & where does one find this information?

Answer: There isn't anything in either the NFHS rule code or the WIAA regulations that addresses this situation. This is something that can be handled mutually by the official, time keeper, and coach and can be covered in the pre-match conference.

Question 2: Can hand clappers be used at volleyball matches?

Answer: Not allowed. Please refer to Rule 1-8; "The use of artificial noisemakers shall be prohibited."

Question 3: We are finding that many schools for which we officiate are having all girls in any level of the volleyball program out on the court while each other's team is warming up. Often, these girls are wearing street clothes and have been wearing flip flops, boots, or socks with no shoes at all. There have been girls using cell phones while standing out there. What is the protocol for members of the other levels of the team who is warming up? Is it the coach's job to approve who is on the court during warm ups? What is the officials' role?

Answer: Attire for athletes participating in "shagging" balls during warm-ups was a point of emphasis from the NFHS a few years ago. As was stated at that time, athletes participating should be properly attired; appropriate footwear which would exclude flip flops, boots, heeled shoes or barefoot. If sub-varsity players are to be included as shaggers, they should remain in uniform with their court shoes on to participate in warm-ups. It is the responsibility of the coaches to ensure that their players are in compliance. Officials should remind coaches if they see individuals not appropriately dressed to participate in this activity and can ask them to leave the court.

Question 4: I have a question about stats. For example, there is a serve attempt, service ace and serve error. When a player gets an ace do you also mark it as an attempt?

Answer: Yes, there is always an attempt recorded no matter what the outcome is. I would recommend reviewing the Volleyball Statistics Guidelines. Go to the WIAA webpage – Volleyball – Tournament Materials. You'll see the Guide posted there.

Question 5: Who is responsible to suspend or cancel a contest due to unsafe conditions?

Answer: The responsibility for calling a contest due to unsafe conditions lies with the officials. While the NFHS rules (1-7-2a & 1-7-3) would apply regarding a forfeit, WIAA policy is to reprimand the school when a coach takes it upon him/herself to pull their team from a contest. It is a long held belief that coaches have a responsibility to find a solution other than removing their team from the playing area.

Question 6: May teams huddle on the court prior to the signal for serve?

Answer: Provided there is no delay in the start of play, teams may briefly huddle. If a team is the first to have its line-up checked by R2, they should immediately assume their correct line-up on the court. Once the line-up has been checked they may briefly huddle while R2 checks their opponent's line-up. If a team is the second to have their line-up checked, they may briefly huddle while their opponent's line-up is being checked but should not create a delay for R2 when he/she is ready to check their line-up. Players should not be lying on the floor or creating delays for the start of the set.

Question 7: Do JV third games go to 25 or 15? Or is this a conference rule?

Answer: The format for sub-varsity is determined by the conference or host school.

Question 8: Players who were banned from the match by their coach due to disciplinary reasons still warmed up. Their names were crossed out on the roster. Is that legal?

Answer: Officials are not to be involved in coach's disciplinary decisions.

Question 9: What is the rule for playing music during tournament time? The last two years, we had an official tell us we cannot play music during time-outs and between games. If this is the case...why is this the only rule that changes from the regular season to post season?

Answer: Whether its regular season or tournament time, there is no such rule.

Question 10: For lower level games, can we have one official only (R1)? In other words not have an R2I...for JV/Frosh matches?

Answer: Yes. Please refer to the Volleyball Season Regulations; "Two WIAA licensed officials are recommended for all nonvarsity competition, but only one is required."

Question 11: I arrived on site to the following question. Is there a penalty associated with the home team doing ball handling prior to the beginning of the JV match?

Answer: No, currently there is not a penalty, although when this occurs officials should have the team stop, inform them of the language in the Season Regulations, and contact WIAA staff the next day.

Question 12: Can teams leave the gym during the intermission?

Answer: Currently the NFHS volleyball rules do not prohibit a team from leaving the bench area when intermission is being used. If leaving, the coach has the responsibility to have the team back on court ready to play by the end of the intermission and to submit the lineup no later than two minutes into the interval between sets. This means that during the intermission, the coach must still submit the lineup at the same time as no intermission. A team that delays the start of play by not returning to the court on time shall be issued an unnecessary delay penalty.

Question 11 (2023): The opposing team is late arriving for the first match of a tournament, which the host is unaware of them being late. To keep everything on schedule we started the warmups on time, allowing the visiting team to only use the remaining time left for their warm-up (they arrived prior to the warm-up time being completed). Is this correct?

In a regular season invitational/tournament the site manager should decide how to proceed. However, abbreviated warm ups or lack of warm up for a team can be a safety concern. NFHS rule states that a complete team of at least six players needs to be present at the designated match time, in order to avoid a forfeit of the first set. Then, according to the NFHS Case Book 1-5-4, a three minute interval is timed. If a complete team is not ready to play after this interval, the second set is forfeited. If a team head coach or captain is present, time outs can be taken prior to the set to buy an extra two minutes. In a tournament situation, where teams are playing two out of three, this means that the match is then forfeited. So, essentially in this situation, the procedure of shortening the warm-up for the late-arriving team was correct if approved by host management. Should this situation had occurred for lower level matches prior to varsity, the site manager in discussion with the coaches, can decide to shorten lower level matches if necessary. For WIAA tournament events, the above outlined NFHS procedure of forfeiture of sets should be followed with the entire match forfeited after the time allowed for a third set.

Rule 2: The Court

Question 1: If a player's foot is touching the sideline, but not beyond the sideline at the moment of her teammate's service, is this a violation?

Answer: NFHS 2-1-1 That is legal because the court lines are considered to be a part of the court.

Question 2: Where in the NFHS Rule Book does it state that the net outside of the net antennas is out of bounds?

Answer: Please refer to 2-3-1d "Touches the net cables or net not completely inside the antenna, net supports or first referee's platform."

Question 3: If the ball is in play and it hits the backboard of a basketball hoop, is the ball "dead" or still free to play?

Answer: NFHS 2-2 "a ball striking the ceiling or an overhead obstruction above playable area shall remain in play provided the ball contacts the ceiling or obstruction on the side of the net extended that is occupied by the team that last played the ball, and the ball is legally played next by the same team." NFHS 2-3 "a ball is out of bounds and becomes dead when it (h) touches any part of a backboard or its supports hanging in a vertical position, over a playable area if it is a served ball or, in the judgment of the referee, the ball would not have remained in play if the backboard had not been there." All playable areas and overhead obstructions should be reviewed by officials during the prematch conference.

Question 4: I would like to know the requirements of the center line (which is also half court line for basketball court) through our logo. Do these lines need to continue through the 8" basketball sideline? If so, does it need to be a solid 2" line or can it be a shadow 2" line?

Answer: From the NFHS 2-1-4: "Shadow line is permitted for the center line. Only small gaps (1-2") are allowed for the other boundary lines, including the attack line. These must be solid lines, shadow lines are only allowed for the center line."

Question 5: Do all volleyball courts need to have a center line? If they don't, what should we do?

Answer: Volleyball courts need to have a center line when used for competition at any level. This needs to be a clearly visible two-inch wide line that can be solid or shadowed; it does not need to be of one solid color. If the line is not permanently painted, the host school will need to use tape to designate the line. Matches cannot be played on illegally marked courts; if a court boundary or line discrepancy cannot be remedied the match should not be played--the teams would be allowed to scrimmage if both teams have available scrimmages remaining per WIAA Season Regulation 4: Scrimmages.

Question 6: NFHS rule 2-1-5 indicates the attack line needs to be solid and of one clearly visible color. A school has an attack line on their main floor that (a) has a segment of a different color, or (b) is shadowed. The event management is told they cannot tape the line as it will damage the floor or void the floor warranty. Can we play on the court?

Answer: To be compliant with the rule, these type of attack lines should be taped to be one solid color. However, after some investigation there are many playing surfaces across the state

that are indeed out of compliance with this rule. As we navigate the issue, for the 2025-26 season, as long as there is a visible attack line on both sides of the court, we will allow play to continue with multi-colored or shadowed lines. If officials discover floor markings that are out of compliance with this rule, please report them to the office but allow play to continue.

Rule 3: Game Equipment

Question 1: I've run into two situations now where schools have a net sleeve printed with their school name or logo on it but it runs on both sides of the net and not the top. Please let me know what the WIAA interpretation would be.

Answer: Illegal. Only allowed on the top of the net per Rule 3-1-1.

Question 2: What volleyball can we use?

Answer: Any ball which has the NFHS Authenticating Mark is legal for use. During the WIAA Sectional Championship and the State Tournament, the ball which is used is the Molten IV58L-3-HS Super Touch (girls) or the V58L-3-HS Pro Touch (boys). Both balls are red, white, and blue in color.

Rule 4: Player Equipment and Uniform

Question 1: Are dark green and black contrasting colors?

Answer: No (NFHS 4-2-2)

Question 2: Team A position players are wearing multi-colored uniform tops of approximately the same amounts of gray and blue. Team A libero is wearing a predominantly gray uniform. Legal?

Answer: No, The predominant colors of the team uniform top are gray and blue. None of the predominant colors can be used as the predominant color of the libero uniform top (NFHS 4-2-2)

Question 3: Does a volleyball player with a cochlear implant need a letter from the WIAA to play? What about a hearing aid?

Answer: Neither the NFHS nor the WIAA Medical Handbook have restrictions or require a waiver for an individual wearing a cochlear implant or a hearing aid in the sport of volleyball.

Question 4: I am wondering if the volleyball players would be able to have a temporary tattoo of the Breast Cancer ribbon symbol on their upper arm? What about a henna tattoo?

Answer: Temporary tattoos in volleyball fall under the category of body paint in Rule 4-1-7 and are not allowed. Temporary medical alert tattoos would be legal however.

Question 7: A team enters with several players wearing pre-wrap, soft rubber bands and bandanas which are folded and go around the entire head (just like a head band). The pre-wrap and bandannas are different colors. Is this legal? Do pre-wrap, bandanas and/or headbands need to be the same color? Are bandanas allowed? What is the distinction between a hair control device and a headband? The coaches and players argued that pre-wrap should be considered a hair control device because that's what it does - even though the pre-wrap is used around the entire head.

Answer: Volleyball allows a variety of hair control devices along with headbands and folded bandanas. Anything that covers the ENTIRE head, not just circling the head, would not be allowed without a waiver issued by this office. Rule 4-1-5; "Hair devices made of soft material and no more than 3 inches wide may be worn. Bobby pins, flat clips and flat barrettes, unadorned and no longer than 2 inches, are also allowed." Per this rule, pre-wrap, soft rubber bands and folded bandannas would be allowed. The NFHS does not require volleyball players to have hair control devices that match in color. I would recommend reviewing the Case Book; 4.1.5, 4.1.6.

Question 8: Do sports bras have to match the uniform color(s)?

Answer: Bras are considered "foundation garments" and are no longer subject to NFHS rules.

Question 10: Does middle school follow the same rules at the WIAA senior high school?

Answer: Less than ninety schools are currently members of the WIAA at the Middle Level. If your school is a member of the WIAA it is expected that you follow all NFHS and WIAA rules and regulations. If your school is not a member you may choose which rules you will follow.

Question 12: Our team is wearing black compression shorts. One player would like to wear traditional black shorts. Is this allowed?

Answer: Legal. Please refer to the Case Book, 4.2.1; "Uniforms on Team A are alike except: (d) style."

Question 13: We have new uniforms, which are royal. The libero is wearing black. Our coach was told that this is not an acceptable color for the libero. Is this correct?

Answer: From the NFHS rule book: "The libero shall wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team." There are several other sentences in the rule that your coach should reference (Rule 4-2-2). The libero jersey does not need to be school colors but it needs to contrast to the other team members' uniforms. A clear contrasting color could be white, yellow, green, pink, etc.

Question 14: During the WIAA Tournament what color jersey does the home team wear?

Answer: Volleyball does not use a specific home and away jersey color. Teams are allowed to use any legal jerseys.

Question 15: My team dyed their hair pink for the recent Dig Pink event. The dye hasn't washed out yet. Is it legal for the players to play in the regional match with pink hair?

Answer: Legal. Neither NFHS nor WIAA rules address hair color.

Question 16: Can headbands have multiple logos on them in volleyball. I cannot find that in the rule book. I cannot find anything to that nature in the rule book. Can you clarify please?

Answer: Please refer to NFHS Rule 4-1-5. The NFHS does not address logos on headbands so there isn't a restriction on the number or size.

Question 17: Reflective tape on the eyelid used as eye shadow . . . legal? We all thought it was glitter, but it isn't really.

Answer: Provided make-up does not have the potential to come off on the ball it would be legal.

Question 18: Is it legal for our boys' volleyball team to wear uniforms that are identical to our current except they are sleeveless? They look like a boys' basketball top but are identical to our tops with short sleeves, but they do not have sleeves.

Answer: Legal.

Question 19: Are hair extensions permissible during match play? My girls are doing an epilepsy awareness event and would like to get purple hair extensions.

Answer: If the extensions are attached with something metal they would not be legal. (Rule 4-1-5)

Question 20: Can a player wear wrist/sweat bands?

Answer: Legal.

Question 21: If the regular players are wearing solid white jerseys (no stripes or piping) with navy numbers, would the libero be allowed to wear a solid gold jersey (not yellow) with navy numbers?

Answer: Legal.

Question 22: If we only have 1 gold jersey (a second was purchased in the off-season, but would not fit the DS who would wear it this year, as she is a new player to the team), would we be allowed to have our starting libero wear the gold jersey (assuming the rest of the team was wearing navy), and if she were to be replaced in a subsequent set, have the new libero wear white?

Answer: Legal.

Question 23: I have an athlete with a subdermal implant. Is it legal? What about if it has a stud attached to it?

Answer: Subdermal implants are legal provided no part of the extension protrudes through the skin.

Question 25: I have a player with tendonitis. Does she need a waiver to wear a neoprene sleeve? What about a brace? Does the sleeve need to be the same color as her uniform?

Answer: No waiver is necessary. Please refer to Rules 4-1-1 and 2 for descriptions of legal braces. Neither a sleeve nor a brace has color restrictions.

Question 27: I have a question concerning footwear. In warm-ups, the varsity coach was barefoot while warming up her team. Rule 4-2-6 states "appropriate playing shoes shall be worn" and I know as an official we are to screen ball shaggers (members of the C and JV teams) to make sure they have appropriate footwear. Is the coach exempt from this rule?

Answer: While it is ill advised for a coach to be on the court without proper footwear, officials' jurisdiction in this area does not extend to coaches.

Question 28: I have a volleyball player who has a medical condition. The condition is worsened with the long sleeve uniform the varsity wears. Would it be ok if we alter her uniform to be short sleeve while everyone else has a long sleeve uniform?

Answer: NFHS Rule 4-2-1 allows for a variety of sleeve lengths. If your coach has someone question this she should refer them to the NFHS Case Book, 4.2.1, sit. A, which addresses this specific question.

Question 29: I have a volleyball player who has been fitted with a "sam splint" on her finger. It is a metal splint sandwiched between padding. Is it legal for her play with this type of splint?

Answer: Not allowed. Please refer to NFHS Rule 4-1-1; "A guard, cast or brace made of hard and unyielding leather, plaster, pliable plastic, metal or any other hard substance shall not be worn on the hand, finger, wrist or forearm, even though covered with soft padding."

Question 30: At a recent boys' game, one of the teams had jerseys with a legal NIKE swoosh on the chest and additionally a NIKE tag at the bottom of the jersey. I believe this is in violation of the single logo rule (4-2-1f).

Answer: Correct call. Only one manufacturer's logo is allowed per piece of apparel. The player can tuck in the jersey to cover the second logo or cover the logo in other legal ways.

Question 31: Can players wear different color bottoms?

Answer: Illegal. Rule 4-2-1; "...shall wear a like-colored uniform top and bottom..."

Question 32: Are "skids" legal for use by all players?

Answer: Legal.

Question 33: How large can the letter "G" be on the front leg of a spandex uniform bottom? We are adding it to our uniform. I know all of the uniform top rules, and manufacturer's logo rules...but this one I could not find.

Answer: No restriction on size on uniform bottom. Only restriction would be for manufacturer's logo.

Question 34: Is a volleyball player allowed to wear a sleeve on their arm?

Answer: Legal. There are no NFHS rules, which would prohibit this.

Question 35: Can a volleyball player wear this device that measures vertical jump?

Answer: This item is not permitted per Rule 4-1-4. Any equipment that in the judgment of the first referee increases a player's advantage or presents a safety concern is prohibited.



Question 36: Are our libero uniforms legal and contrasting enough?

Answer: Please refer to the "[Contrasting Uniform Tops](#)" .pdf from the NFHS linked on the WIAA website.

Question 37 (2023): Are the "barbell" type eyebrow piercings legal under the new rule (4-2-7)?

Answer: Eyebrow rings by definition are above the chin and are legal; the barbell shape is similar to two posts/studs and is legal as well.

Question 38 (2023): Is it legal for the players to wear spandex bottoms with repeating manufacturer's logos around the waistband?

Answer: Rule 4-2-1.f clearly states that the "manufacturer's logo/trademark/reference restrictions do not apply to the waistbands on uniform bottoms so this would be legal.

Question 39 (2023): Can medical alert temporary tattoos be worn during competition?

Answer: Similar to how medical alert medals are not considered jewelry and can be worn if taped down (Rule 4-2-7), medical alert tattoos will not be considered body paint and are permissible to be worn during competition.

Question 40 (2023): Are dark (navy blue) and black contrasting colors? Dark (forest green) and black?

Answer: These are not "sharply or clearly" contrasting colors and therefore should not be combined as team and libero jersey colors or primary jersey and number colors. (Rule 4-2-2 and Rule 4-2-4)

Question 41 (2023): Can coaches coach matches barefoot?

Answer: Although there is no specific mention to coaching footwear, Rule 4-2-6 states that players must "wear appropriate footwear." In this instance, coaches should model and be held to the same standard as players on the competition floor. Wearing shoes is required for entry into most venues for sanitary and safety purposes and is considered the professional standard.

Question 42 (2023): Players are adding items to their shoes i.e. ribbons and beads. Are these items legal?

Soft materials, like ribbons, would be permissible if they do not create a tripping hazard. Hard materials, such as beads, are not permissible and are treated like non-compliant jewelry.

Question 43 (2023): Do ball shaggers need to comply with the new jewelry rule?

Yes, ball shaggers need to be properly/safely equipped. This means they need to be wearing appropriate footwear and all jewelry must comply with the NFHS rules.

Rule 5: Officials Responsibilities and Positions

Question 1: As the R2, am I allowed to use my phone or an ipod to electronically keep the line-up?

Answer: No, NFHS Rule 5-5-1 (Note) requires that the R2 record both teams in starting floor position on his/her lineup card. The NFHS has provided an interpretation regarding the use of electronic devices in lieu of a line-up card, and at this time, that is not allowed. You can however use your phone between sets, or when necessary, to access your electronic rules book.

Question 2: Do we continue to allow the teams to shake hands at the net after the last game in a match? In the rule book they want us to dismiss the teams from the court to the sidelines right after the last game of the match?

Answer: Rule 5-4-4e directs the R1 to "...At the end of the match, the first referee shall whistle, give the end-of-set signal, then whistle and release the players. Wisconsin, stressing good sportsmanship is important. Teams are encouraged to shake hands following release by the R1.

Question 3: When there is a deciding game (either the 3rd or 5th), and the captains are called for the coin flip. Is it all captains or just the "playing" captains on the court?

Answer: Please refer to Rule 5-4-4d2. It references "captains" and not specifically "playing captains". I would interpret this to mean all captains.

Question 4: I thought I read somewhere that if an official chooses to wear black shorts due to heat that he/she also must wear white socks and white shoes, not black shoes and socks. So my question is whether I am correct and white shoes and socks are mandatory with black shorts or are they optional and we can also wear black shoes and black socks. I know we must wear the black with black pants. Also could you reference where in the rules these policies might appear?

Answer: The information regarding volleyball officials' attire can be found in the "Guide for Officials" and also in the WI Adaptations. If shorts are worn, due to high heat and humidity, either black or white shoes would be allowed although both partners should be wearing the same thing. Black shoes continue to be the preferred officials' attire, and will be required of the state tournament officials.

Question 5: We're training new line judges. Is there any information on what they need to know? I'm especially interested in training them to use flags.

Answer: Access the WIAA website, select Volleyball from the list of sports, click on Rules & Regulations, and then choose "Line Judges Duties and Responsibilities." This is an excellent PowerPoint presentation produced by the Indiana Association.

Question 6: Once rosters sheets are submitted, can they be given back to the head coach if the lineup sheet is on the same document?

Answer: Coaches can be given their roster/lineup sheet back IF the following requirements are met per NFHS rule: the roster is provided to the R2 after the pre-match conference and provided to the scorekeeper, is returned to the scorekeeper with completed lineups at least two minutes prior to the end of the prematch warmup (1 minute prior to the start of subsequent sets), and the roster/lineup sheet is left at the table for the duration of play of each set.

Rule 6: The Team: Composition and Positions

Question 1: My question is if players are not moving/waving their arms and the players

leave a gap between them, is R1 allowed to force them to lower their arms prior to or during the serve contact with the threat of a potential screen being called?

Answer: R1 does not have the authority to request that players place their arms at their waist. Please refer to the Case Book 6.5.2, sit. A, B & C.

Question 2: What is overlapping?

Answer: Rule 6-4-3c states; "Each right side player shall have at least part of one foot touching the floor closer to the right sideline than both feet of the center player in the corresponding row. Each leftside player shall have at least part of one foot touching the floor closer to the left sideline than both feet of the center player in the corresponding row. Each front-row player shall have at least part of one foot touching the floor closer to the center line than both feet of the corresponding back-row player."

Question 3: Receiving team's back row setter was in the left back position, LB, and at the instant of serve, straddled the left front player, LF. That is, LB setter had one foot touching the floor closer to the net than both feet of LF, and one foot farther away from net than both feet of LF. Setter was whistled for overlap, but coach thought this was legal.

Answer: Correct call. Rule Book p.27, 6-4-3-b. Case Book pg. 23, 6.4.3 Situation 1.

Question 4: Is the following situation considered screening: If team S has 3 players close together (not directly in a line) with arms up, but aligned with one at net, the other two about 6-12 inches behind her, but with minimal to no gaps between them and team's S server serves the ball directly over them, according to Rule 6-5, article 1, part b I feel it should be. An official disagreed.

Answer: Please refer to the NFHS Case Book; 6.5.2, sit. B. The situation details a similar situation to the one that you have described. Screening could potentially be called but one of the criteria that you did not mention was the type of serve used. In any case, this is a judgment call by the official and without actually observing the action it would be very difficult for to comment on the particular situation.

Question 5: We had a situation last night where the R1 called our team for overlapping because LB and CF were overlapped. I tried to explain that this wasn't correct. Please advise.

Answer: Legal. Please refer to the Case Book, 6.4.3, sit. G, diagram c. LB is closer to the centerline than CF which is legal provided LB is not overlapping with LF or CB.

Question 6: Emphasis in 2022 indicated the scoretable should not use a sounding device when an improper server is used and instead should notify the second referee during the first dead ball. What if the second referee (R2) notices the improper server him/herself? Should the R2 also allow the play to continue? Or should R2 whistle immediately?

Answer: Rule 6-4, Penalties 2 still applies when an official (R1 or R2) notices the improper server - loss of rally shall be awarded as soon as the improper server is discovered and verified. An immediate whistle can be applied. The change was intended to not allow the scorer or libero tracker to make the call from the officials table to stop play as many times as they are not trained officials.

Question 7 (2023): Does the libero tracker need to be a person solely to that task or can he/she be doing another job at the table as well?

Answer: The libero tracker can be a person also doing another job (announcing, timing, etc.) as long as all tasks are being done in a satisfactory manner; this will vary based on the skill level of the

Question 8 (2025): What do you we do when the entire visiting team has not arrived for the coin toss or start of the pre-game warm up? The rulebook and casebook only seem to outline what to do when a team has less than 6 players.

Answer: This can happen, especially with the current shortage of bus drivers/transportation. If a team/school is proactive and calls ahead indicating they are indeed going to be late due to reasons beyond their control, it is preferred that the team is still given their full warm up and the match starts late WHENEVER POSSIBLE. If the visiting team has not communicated with the host, officials can begin the pregame warm up 20 minutes before the match is scheduled to start, pause the clock when the team arrives for the pre-match conference and coin toss, then continue the remaining warm up time. If there is no communication from the visiting school and the match is scheduled to start, per NFHS Rule 6-2-2 the team has fewer than six eligible players to start the match, a forfeit will be declared.

Rule 7: Roster and Lineup

Question 1: Recently, at a volleyball tournament, I was told by R2 that I had to keep my line up sheet at the scorer's table throughout the match. I had picked up my sheet and taken it back to the bench area as I walked by the table when we were switching sides of

the court between sets. In checking the rules, I can only find that the sheet is required to stay at the table during each set. Please clarify this rule for me: Do I have to stay at the scorer's table or in clear view of the scorer to fill in the lineup for sets 2-5 or may I take my sheet to the bench area and return it to the scorer's table after I have filled in the next set's line up?

Answer: Please refer to the NFHS Case Book, page 28; 7.1.3: "Between sets, the coach takes the combined roster/lineup sheet from the officials' table to prepare his/her lineup for the next set.

Question 2: Can the make-up of the WIAA tournament team's roster change from match to match?

Answer: Allowed.

Question 3: Is there a limit on roster spots for a varsity team? 10? 15? 25?

Answer: The regular season schools may determine their own roster size. I would advise checking to see if your conference has any restriction on roster size. During the WIAA tournament series the roster is limited to 15 players, but the roster may change from one tournament match to the next.

Question 4: You can only have 1 person designated as the Libero for each set of a match, correct? Then could they change who that person is before the start of the next game? So in game 1 of a varsity match Player A is Libero, game 2 of the varsity match it would be player B.

Answer: Yes, that is correct. Rule 7-1-2.

Question 5: The R2 verifies the players on the floor with their lineup card before a set, and the wrong player is on the court. The R2 does have to take a minute to go back to the scorer to make sure they wrote it down right, then approach the coach on the error. The coach admits they did not communicate the starting line up well to the players, and has no problem putting the right player on the court and the change is made. What if anything should be the penalty to the team? Loss of point/serve? Unnecessary delay? No penalty?

Answer: Please refer to the Case Book page 24 (7.1.2, sit. A). "As the second referee is checking lineups, Team A has No. 22 on the lineup sheet but No. 12 is on the court. The R2 tells the coach No. 22 must take the court and the coach may (a) leave No. 22 in for at least one rally

and then substitute, or (b) request a substitution No. 12 for No. 22 prior to the start of the set. RULING: Correct procedure. COMMENT: "If the substitution is to occur prior to the start of the set, the R2 will follow the regular substitution procedure to allow #12 to enter the set."

Question 6: In the ABC Conference, if a team wins the first 3 sets, a fourth EXHIBITION set will be played to allow more playing time. In the exhibition set, the coach submitted the line up with TWO Libero players listed. I informed him that they could only list one (NFHS 7-1-2-a). Does an Exhibition set allow for the deviation of National Federation HS rules?

Answer: No, an exhibition set is not a scrimmage, it is part of a competition. There is no language that states that rules should/can be set aside during an exhibition set.

Rule 8: The Serve

Question 1: The server bounces the ball before the whistle. After the whistle, she backspins the ball into the air, lets it bounce in front of her, and then tosses it for her serve. Is this grounds for a reserve? This is her consistent way of serving.

Answer: Provided the serve takes place within the 5 second allowance this would be legal. (8-1-1)

Question 2: I have had a couple of volleyball coaches and fans ask me if it is ok for the opposition to yell things like "up", or "jump" when the server tosses the ball for serve, or does a jump serve. The fans are all told not to yell during the serve before the match. My thought would be that should carry over to the opposing players as well.

Answer: Over the years this issue has been addressed many times. In the past, we have indicated that officials need not concern themselves with fans yelling during a serve unless it's an issue of individuals being singled out. For example, "Hey #3 you're going to miss!" Athletic directors are encouraged to keep their fans under control but nowhere in the rule book does it state it must be silent when someone is serving. The same is true if the opposition chooses to call out something (such as the examples you gave). Unless it is interpreted as unsportsmanlike (singling out the server, using profane language), officials would simply ignore it. The examples you have given have been addressed in the past and have been considered legal (although not really necessary).

Question 3: Can you verify the rule about re-serve for volleyball? The wording is a bit confusing on re-serves when a player tosses the ball up and chooses not to serve it. Is the re-serve allowed once per serve, or once per server per rotation?

Answer: "Term of Service" is defined in NFHS 8-1-3. "A team's term of service begins when a player assumes the right back position as the server and ends when a loss of rally is awarded." In addition, please refer to the Case Book, 8.1.6; "Player S1 is awarded a re-serve and serves two more points before being replaced by Player S2. Player S2 is awarded a re-serve during his/her term of service. Case Book 8.1.6 Illegal serve; loss of rally/point.
Comment: The improper server has already used up the proper server's re-serve privilege for that player's term of service (Penalty 3).

Question 4: Team A wins a rally and the serve. With Player X for Team A at end-line, R1 blows whistle and beckons for serve. Player X realizes that she is not the correct server and within the 5 second count tosses the ball up into the air and lets it fall to the ground. R1 calls for re-serve. Team A, now rotates to the correct positions and the correct server takes possession of the ball and serves. Play is allowed by R1. Is this the correct call?

Answer: Legal. Please refer to the Case Book, 8.1.6, sit D. Similar situation.

Question 5: Team's A server tosses the ball in the air and lets it drop. The official calls for a re-serve. The server serves two more points before again tossing the ball in the air and letting it drop. Is the server entitled to a second re-serve or only the one?

Answer: Illegal. 8-1-5; "Each player may have only one re-serve during a team's term of service." See question #3.

Question 6: We have a player who likes to start her jump serve from outside the sideline, she then runs along the baseline and serves. Last week at our invite she was called for a violation, because she started the serve outside the sideline. Is this a violation?

Answer: NFHS Rule 2-1-6 defines the serving area and rule 8-1-2 states; "...shall not touch the end line or the floor outside the lines marking the width of the serving area at the instant the ball is contacted for the serve." This means that the server may begin their approach outside the serving area but at the moment of contact must be within the defined serving area.

Rule 9: During Play

Question 1: What is the ruling if a player's hair touches the net?

Answer: NFHS Rule 9-6-7 "A net foul occurs while the ball is in play and: a) It is not a foul when a player's loose hair touches the net..."

Question 2: I was officiating a game last night and the coach was insistent that any time the ball came off of the setters fingers spinning (especially if it went backwards) that she had to have carried the ball. I explained that I watch each hit and call it dependent on the hit, not only on the action of the ball. If the ball remains on the setter's hands too long or if it rolls on her hands I will call an illegal hit. However, if the ball simply pops off the fingertips even if the ball is spinning it is not necessarily an illegal hit. Is this correct?

Answer: Rule 9-4-5; "Legal contact is a touch of the ball by any part of a player's body which does not allow the ball to visibly come to rest or involve prolonged contact with a player's body."

Question 4: Some coaches are reporting their players are being called for stepping over the centerline. The officials are calling that illegal. When asked the officials state that the players cannot step over the centerline. Please clarify

Answer: Legal. Rule 9-5-7; "A player may touch the floor across the center line with one or both feet/hands provided a part of the foot/feet or hand(s) remains on or above the center line. Contacting the floor across the center line with any other part of the body is illegal."

Question 5: At what point should the officials call a replay because of a perceived injury? Is it okay to call a replay after the ball is dead because it hit the floor while someone was sitting on the floor and couldn't get to the ball because of a possible injury? (She went out for the next play, but was back in a couple of plays later.)

Answer: Please refer to the list of replay situations in Rule 9-8-1g. In the situation you've described, a player on the floor is unable to play the ball because of a possible injury.

Question 6: If a player is excited and jumps up from the bench after a good play, the water in her bottle flies and lands on the court. If it takes a lot of time to clean up the water due to no towel, is it a penalty? This was not at a time out.

Answer: Rule 9-9-1 (Unnecessary delay) "...is not limited to:" This means it could include the situation you have described.

Question 7: Is it ok to kick the volleyball to keep it in play? Please include the WIAA or NFHS rule if possible.

Answer: Legal. Rule 9-4-5; "Legal contact is a touch of the ball by any part of a player's body which does not allow the ball to visibly come to rest or involve prolonged contact with a player's body."

Question 8: There seems to be a lot of confusion concerning the end of set protocol for a non-deciding set. I signal the loss of rally, the fault, the end of set signal, and then the change of court signal. I have the players on the court change sides going around the net poles without going to the end line. I have seen some referees at the end of the set send the players on the court to their bench and then have them change sides. I have also seen some referees follow the old protocol of sending the teams to the end line and then have them change sides. Please clarify.

Answer: Please refer to NFHS Rule 9-2-3b; "When directed by the first referee to change courts, the teams shall proceed immediately to their new team benches and the players shall proceed counterclockwise along the sideline past the standard to their new team benches." This is also referenced in Rule 5-4-4b.

Question 9: On a ball headed out of bounds that contacts a player's hair versus the skull, is it considered a touch? This happened at a girls match whereby it was apparent it contacted hair, but not the head/body. The officials did not call it a touch as hair contacting the net is considered incidental contact.

Answer: Rule 9-4-1; "A contact is any touch of the ball by a player (excluding the player's loose hair)." Also a situation in the Case Book: 9.4.1.

Question 10: At a recent tournament there were vertical hanging backboards about 6' from the endline of the court. On one court, a ball contacting the backboard was automatically dead with no opportunity for a replay. On the other court it was dead but the official considered whether there were grounds for a replay or not as per NFHS Rule 9-8-1h. What should the ruling have been?

Answer: If it is determined that the vertical hanging backboard is in a playable area a replay would be called if "...in the judgment of the referee, the ball would have remained in play had the backboard not been there, and a player is able to make a legitimate play for the ball." Where identical multiple courts are being used it is important for officials to make consistent calls on ground rules.

Question 11: Based on Rule 9-5-3, is it legal for a back row player, while on or in front of attack line, to jump and contact ball that is not completely above the height of the net to complete an attack?

Answer: Legal. Generally, if you do not find an action listed as illegal in the NFHS Rule Book, it should be considered legal.

Question 12 (2025): After an obvious double contact on the second hit by Team A, the ball trajectory went toward the net but didn't cross the plane. Team B reached across the plane of the net in an attempt to block the ball and in doing so touched the net for what would be a net violation. Does the official call the net violation on Team B or the the double contact as the next contact was indeed by the opposing team?

Answer: There would be a net violation on Team B. Since the ball did not cross the plane of the net, the double contact was not illegal and the play should have continued for Team A.

Rule 10: Substitution and Libero Placement

Question 1: On a dead ball, Team A requests a substitution. The R2 recognizes the substitution request with a whistle and signal. The substitute is not ready to enter the set and significantly delays the completion of the substitution. R2 signals unnecessary delay (administrative yellow for first offense), then allows the substitution to be completed. Correct procedure?

Answer: Incorrect. Issuing the yellow card for unnecessary delay is correct; however, the substitution should have been denied and no further substitutions may be requested by the team at fault until after the next completed rally. NFHS 10-2-7b(1), 10-2 PENALTIES 2

Question 2: An injured libero has been replaced by re-designation. Can he/she return to play during the match?

Answer: He/she would not be allowed to return during that same set, but would be allowed to return to play in a subsequent set. Rule 10-4-3

Question 3: Rule 10-4-5 talks about the Libero rotating to the server position while she is already on the court. I've always been under the impression that the player that is coming back into the game for the Libero (when the Libero is staying in to serve) should be rotating to the front row. Tonight in our match, the player that came back in for the Libero (while the Libero went to serve) stayed in the back row. Is this a correct procedure? Or does that player (coming back in for the Libero) indeed have to be rotating to the front row? Can you clarify this for me?

Answer: It may be unusual to have the replacement come into the LB position since that person would need to receive and play defense, but it is legal.

Question 4: If I put a sub in for a player, does that sub, if taken out, only able to be subbed back in for that same original player for the rest of that set? Or, can I use that sub for other players as well in the same set?

Answer: Not allowed. Rule 10-3-1. Please refer to the NFHS Case Book, page 35, 10.3.1, sit. B; "COMMENT: These players may enter the set an unlimited amount of time as long as the entry is in the original position and the total number of substitutes does not exceed 18. Any number of players may enter into a position. However none of these players may enter into a different position in the rotation order for that set."

Question 5: We had a set where I was going to have 2 subs go in. My second player was late to the sub area and the sub was denied. I told the ref that I wanted to take a timeout and then make my second sub after the timeout. The R2 said he would not allow this sub to occur even if I were to use one of my timeouts. As far as I can tell, if I am willing to take a timeout I can make another sub if needed as long as I have a timeout available.

Answer: The official was correct. Rule 10-1-3; "Each team is permitted only one request for substitution during the same dead ball. Other requests for substitution by the same team shall be denied." From the description of the event, it appears that this took place during the same dead ball period.

Question 6: We officiated a volleyball game last night and the coach said that referees have been inconsistent with substitution procedures. Some have had the 2nd pair of subs wait outside the substitution zone between the 10 M line and the end line, others have had the subs stand in a line (behind) with the 1st set of subs. I just wanted to clarify the proper procedure.

Answer: From the NFHS rule 10-2-3B, "If more than one substitution is to be made, the substitutions shall be made in succession, one pair of players after another (substitute and outgoing player) with only one substitute in the substitution zone at a time."

Rule 12: Conduct

Question 1: A player on the court receives a yellow card for unsporting conduct. Is the head coach required to remove her from the court? Is the head coach required to sit for the rest of the set? Match?

Answer: No to all. Refer to 12-2 Penalties and Procedures for Unsporting Conduct Violations. Warning: a yellow card is administered by the first referee at the first dead ball. The warning shall be recorded in the Comments section on the scoresheet. No penalty point is assessed.

Question 2: I'm R2. The coach comes over to me and says fans behind the bench are making nasty comments to and about her girls, which I can't hear. Is there anything I do about this? What do I say to her?

Answer: This is a game management issue. Please refer to 12-3; “When a spectator becomes unruly or interferes with the orderly progress of the set, the first referee shall suspend the set until the host management resolves the situation and the set can proceed in an orderly manner.”

Question 3: During the match, the coach that is standing is not the coach that was in the meeting. Is this a violation? What is the penalty?

Answer: The head coach is required to attend the pre-match meeting (Rule 12-2-3). Not attending could result in an unsporting conduct (12-2-8).

Hosting an Awareness/Fundraiser (ex. “Pink”) Event

Question 1: A player’s mother is having a pink volleyball game and was asking to find out if she could put the sponsor’s logo on the uniform. She was not able to find if it was legal or not. I checked the rules book, and the ‘hosting a pink event’ site and found that it is illegal to have a sponsor’s logo on the uniform. Was I correct in this?

Answer: You are correct that sponsor’s logos are not allowed on uniforms. Please refer to the School Center and reference the heading “Hosting Pink Event” located under Volleyball; Rules Related Materials.

Question 2: Our team is not going to have a dig pink event, but we wanted to replace it with a fundraiser to the XXX Association. I was just checking to see if that would be all right. We would have different uniforms and probably still use our pink volleyball.

Answer: The WIAA does not sanction specific events. Your local school board or administration should do so. I would advise though, that you review the information posted on the volleyball web page regarding hosting a “Pink Event” as that has information that may be helpful for your event. Keep in mind also that the WIAA does prohibit fund raising in relation to performance during a contest (donations based on the number of ace serves, kills, etc.).

Question 3: I was hoping to hold a fundraiser during one of the matches this season and wanted to make sure that this money raising event was not in violation of any WIAA rules. The plan is to have the players (all levels) ask people if they would like to donate money for cancer research (all money raised would go to the coaches vs cancer organization) by giving a lump sum or an amount per kill, or ace or dig that the team has during the match. Could you please advise me on any issues there might be in doing an event like this?

Answer: The WIAA does not allow players to receive pledges for game achievements. See the following from the Eligibility Q & A: “While we appreciate the causes which our schools and athletes support, I recommend that you find a different method to raise funds. The Board of Control has made it clear that fundraisers connected to performance in competition are NOT

allowed. Both from the sportsmanship perspective, as well as from the "paid to perform" and or gaming/gambling end of things, it is not a good idea and not allowed. Your plan would be allowed in a practice setting. A lump sum donation would be acceptable."

Question 4: I had a coach ask me the other night about the girls wearing pink hair extensions for a Pink Out event. I told her I wasn't sure about extensions, but knew for sure that the girls could dye their hair pink if they wanted to. Can you shed some light on this situation for me?

Answer: It depends on how the extension is attached. If it has any kind of hard metal or plastic attachment to the girls' real hair it would not be allowed. If it was woven into the hair and secure than it might be OK. You are correct that hair dye would be allowed, but caution should be used if the hair coloring is spray on rather than actual dye. Spray tends to run when the player becomes hot and sweaty.

Tournament Procedure

Question 1: What is the bench limit for the WIAA Tournament?

Answer: Please refer to the WIAA Tournament Regulations: "Each participating school will be allowed a **maximum of 15 players in full uniform** for each tournament match. Noncompliance with this regulation, once competition has begun, shall be regarded as flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the head coach resulting in his/her immediate ejection (leave premises) when brought to the attention of the game officials. A **maximum of 22 bench personnel**, which includes a maximum of 15 eligible players and additional people such as coaches, manager(s), statistician(s), principal, athletic director, etc., shall be permitted to occupy the team bench."

Question 2: Next week our girls' volleyball team will be our school's "team of the week" and part of this celebration they wanted to throw t-shirts into the stands when they get announced for their playoff game on the 20th. Would that be ok to do or, since it is a playoff game and "neutral" environment, should we not permit that since it is a playoff event?

Answer: Thanks for checking on this. As you noted, the neutral environment we strive for during the WIAA tournaments, would prohibit throwing t-shirts into the crowd.

Question 3 (2025): The WIAA Tournament regulations changed this year indicating the top-seeded team is the home team (when there is a tie in seeds, the first team alphabetical is home). At neutral sites during the regular season, who is considered the home team?

Answer: The Tournament regulations are indeed for the tournament (regionals and sectionals) only. During the regular season, home team determination is left to local control and at invites should be determined in pre-event information and reinforced at the coaches meeting. As a default, the first team alphabetical, as determined for competitions with a tied seed in the tournament, can be used.

Miscellaneous

Question 1: We have attended two varsity tournaments where the host school had to enter a JV team to replace the varsity team that pulled out of the tournament at the last minute. We have played three JV teams as a result of this happening this season. I would like to know if we can count these as wins in our overall record for the season and for seeding. After all, it isn't our fault that this happened and I don't believe it should affect our record. What is the WIAA stance on this?

Answer: Only matches played against varsity teams may be counted in the overall season record and for seeding purposes.

Question 2: Is there a requirement, if the facility allows, that the score clock and the scorebook should be together, especially during a varsity competition (conference match)?

Answer: If a facility absolutely cannot have the scorer and scoreboard operator sitting together they will not be prohibited from hosting a match. The priority would be for the scorer to be court-side for access by R2 and players that are substituting into the match.

Question 3: Our school wants the varsity volleyball team to scrimmage the faculty. They have a scrimmage available.

Answer: Legal.

Question 4: We would like to have our middle school students serve between the JV and varsity contests. Is this allowed?

Answer: Yes. Please refer to the Recruiting Guidelines found on the Eligibility page of the WIAA website.

Question 6: We would like to have a player play in both a JV and varsity match on the same day. The matches are being held in two different cities. Is this allowed?

Answer: Please refer to the WIAA Volleyball Season Regulations, Individual Participation

Limitations; "It is strongly recommended that a student participate at only one level (varsity or nonvarsity) on the same day." Since the tournaments are being held in two different locations, this would be interpreted as two separate contests which would be counted as 2 of the maximum number of matches allowed, which is 15. Keep in mind that if a dual match is scheduled, "A student who participates at multiple levels on the same day may not play in more than the equivalent of five sets if the varsity match is three out of five set match."

Question 8: Recently officials prohibited players from shaking the opposing coach's hand during the introductions. Please clarify if this is allowed or not.

Answer: In volleyball we have always allowed this display of sportsmanship.

Question 10: Can a JV Team have more than the maximum allowed matches? We are currently one over the max but are watching the number of games our athletes that play both Varsity and JV are playing.

Answer: No, Please refer to the WIAA Volleyball Season Regulations; "The maximum number of contests is 15, and no more than seven of the 15 may be multiple-school contests (involving total of more than two teams)".

Question 11: I've been trying to find out how many different volleyball contests are allowed for freshmen and haven't been able to find it on WIAA website.

Answer: Please refer to page 62 of the Volleyball Season Regulations; "The maximum number of meets is 13. No more than six of the 13 may be multiple-school meets."

Question 12: We have more girls out for volleyball this year than ever before. Is it possible to have a varsity reserve team? How do we go about creating one?

Answer: Your school board should officially approve the varsity reserve team. Then create a schedule specifically for this team. The varsity reserve would have the same match limits as the varsity and JV teams and each girl would still need to adhere to the individual season limitations.

Question 13: We have a player that needs to wear a heart monitor. Does she need WIAA approval?

Answer: Yes. Contact WIAA staff with the name of the player and provide a copy of the physician's orders for its use. The WIAA will provide a wavier which should be shown by the head coach to the officials prior to each match.

Question 14: Could you tell me the rule on JV games if one team has won the first two games? Must a third game be played or is it if both coaches agree to play it. It has come up as we are a small school and have the six game waiver.

Answer: This would be a conference decision if it's a conference match. Usually, subvarsity matches are 3 set matches regardless so that the players receive more playing time. If it's not a conference match, it could be mutually decided.

Question 15: Do we have to have anyone in particular keep the scorebook for freshman level volleyball games or can it be a volunteer parent from either team?

Answer: It's the host school's responsibility to provide an individual that is knowledgeable and reliable for the role of the scorekeeper. Exactly who that person is, is up to the host. Volunteer parents, if trained, are acceptable.

Question 16: I have an athlete on my volleyball team that has asked me if they could bowl with their mother, in a mother daughter bowling tournament, it has a cash payout. They were wondering if this would conflict with rules of participation in volleyball?

Answer: Bowling is not a WIAA sponsored sport, therefore participation in this event would be allowed.

Question 17: In the ABC Conference, if a team wins the first 3 sets, a fourth EXHIBITION set will be played to allow more playing time. In the exhibition set, the coach submitted the line up with TWO Libero players listed. I informed him that they could only list one (NFHS 7-1-2-a). Does an Exhibition set allow for the deviation of National Federation HS rules?

Answer: No, an exhibition set is not a scrimmage, it is part of a competition. There is no language that states that rules should/can be set aside during an exhibition set.

Question 18: We are playing a best-of-three match. After a team wins the match 2-0, we decide to play an exhibition set for participation. Do we need to record the exhibition match in our score reporting or on our season summary?

Answer: No. Do not report exhibition sets on the WIAA score reporting site or your season summaries. Report deciding sets only. Season summaries can be printed directly off the WIAA website at the end of the season if necessary and will only report deciding sets.

Question 19 (2023): Is the individual participation limit for players the same as the team maximum (15 events with no more than 7 multis)?

Yes, each individual player may also play in a total of 15 dates (excluding the WIAA tournament series) including up to 7 multis (tris, quads, tournaments). During 3/5 set duals, an individual player can play up to 6 sets if playing on two different levels of competition.

Question 20 (2023): Can the student spectators approach the floor after introductions to high five their team?

We do not condone this action from the students in the stands for safety reasons, however we acknowledge that it can and will happen spontaneously at times. Student spectators should never be allowed on the playing surface, even before the match starts. If this is an organized action prior to the start of a regular season match, site managers should inform the officials when they enter the facility and have a plan for its safe execution. This should not and cannot occur during the WIAA tournament series matches.