

"Control the Controllable"

It is hard to believe that the 2026 volleyball season is upon us! Thank you for giving of your time and expertise to help provide an amazing season for our student/athletes. Please send me any scenarios, questions, or situations you may encounter so that I can add them to our weekly Volleygrams. Here are a few reminders and information on where to find more volleyball related materials.

"It Takes a Village"

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Where to find important information--go to the WHSAA website and click on officials/officials department, volleyball: Listed you will find a number of items that refer to the rule changes, libero tracking, alignment, evaluation forms etc. Also, when you go to the Officials Department you will find the Good Sport Nomination Form--please try to give these out as often as you feel they are warranted!

Please look over the "Nuts & Bolts" and "Using Two Liberos" prior to our first weekend. They both contain a lot of beneficial reminders and tips to help with consistency across the state.

Reminders

1. If you are planning to officiate in another state during the season then you must have completed that state's Affiliate Official requirements as well as our WHSAA registration. This is important as teams may have to forfeit if you are not properly registered.
2. If a school from another state plays in Wyoming then they must follow our Wyoming rules. Below are some of the things we may be doing differently and need to be covered prior to the start of the match:
 - a. Warmup times and who takes the net first to warmup
 - b. Switching or not switching benches
 - c. Wyoming teams may warmup outside the court while the other team is on the court warming up
 - d. Playing the 3rd set of sub-varsity to 15 points (if agree upon by both teams)
 - e. Bench celebrations (what is allowed)
3. The following reminders were sent to the Athletic Directors, by the WHSAA Associate Commissioner, Chad Whitworth, last week Hopefully this will alleviate any questions on these issues for our Wyoming schools.
 - a. If you have a coach ask how many sets a player may play in one day it is (20), and if they go in for one play then it counts as one set played. You as an official have NO responsibilities for keeping track etc. That is between the schools and the WHSAA.
 - b. If a school chooses to play the sub-varsity's third set to (15) points that will be decided PRIOR to the start of the match between the two coaches, and the officials have NO say in the decision.. (add to your pre-match conference).

s Team benches--the host school can decide to not switch, and they should inform you when you arrive. Change: If the officials decide that there is a disadvantage on one side or the other, teams are required to switch benches.

d, Bench celebrations--Choreographed bench celebrations are NOT allowed. It must be spontaneous. The following list of actions are not allowed in Wyoming matches (states may vary).. This is not a full list, but these were reported last season.

Rolling/diving on the floor, rowing a boat action, building pyramids, holding up signs, using props such as stuffed animals. Waving a towel quickly in a spontaneous manner is legal. Your Pre-Season Guide addresses it further on page 3 in the Conduct section. Verbal celebrations are legal as long as they don't include any choreographed actions such as the bench all turning around in circles as they yell, If the bench is standing up clapping their hands, and yelling Ace Ace Ace that is legal.

4. Screening- None of the current "potential" screening rules have changed. The only change is that the players (at the net and/or in the back row if they are directly in front of the server) can't have their arms/hands above their heads, We will need to remind them early in the season--don't give them a yellow card right off the bat--it is a hard habit to break.

5. Teams using two-liberos may have some questions as we get started. Please have patience with the teams, and don't card them right away as we all get used to the change.

Mechanics

1. How can I keep track of which libero was on the court prior to a time-out?

Tip: Do the same process as we do for subs. Have the libero who was in go back onto the court, after the time-out ends, and then have the other libero make the exchange. *remember that playing with two liberos is like having two players playing the same position.

2. How does the R2 administer subs going in for both teams?

Double-whistle for the subs, give the sub signal (#15) sub for one team and then give the R1 the court back signal (#16)..give the sub signal (#15) again (with no whistle) sub for the other team and repeat signal (#16).

Points-to-Ponder

Scenario: The coach(s) and/or non-playing teammates enter the court during play (i.e. they think the last play of the set is over but the other team saves the ball before the whistle blows) Penalty: illegal alignment--loss of rally/point (rule book pages 32, 52).