

"Control the Controllable"

What a great first week of the season! Our uniqueness of being a state-wide "volleyball family" was definitely on display across the state. We had super competition, sportsmanship, kindness, compassion, and comradery. It is an honor for all of us to be a part of a sport that always puts the well-being of our student/athletes first! Don't forget to checkout all of the information on the WHSAA website under the officials tab. Newly added this week is the 2026 Rules Comparison Chart for the NCAA/USA/NFHS. The NFHS will be sending out weekly rule interpretations, and Lana will be sending those on to you as they come in. Also, these early season tournaments are a good opportunity to partake in the evaluation/observation process. If you are interested in having one done, please go to the WHSAA volleyball page and complete a self-evaluation prior to having your evaluation. Any certified official may complete an evaluation of any registered or other certified official.

Thanks again for ALL you do--"It Takes a Village"

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Questions

1. How do I know if I use the out signal or the touch signal when the team plays an errant ball?
 - a. Touch signal (#9)--when their team's 1st/2nd/3rd contact with the ball lands on their side of the net.
 - b. Out signal (#13)--when their team's 1st/2nd/3rd contact goes over the net to the other team's court.
2. What is the correct procedure for the R1 and R2 on time-outs?
 - a. R2 double-whistles, signals time-out (#19) and indicates which team took the time-out.
 - b. R2 signals to the R1 the number of time-outs the team has USED.
 - c. R1 mirrors the time-out signal (#19) and the number of time-outs USED.
 - d. If the R2 is still at the table, when the time gets to 45 seconds, the R1 blows the warning whistle.
 - e. The HORN is blown at the end of the time-out to resume play (Unless you are at a tournament where you can use a whistle)
 - f. R2 will let the coaches know how many time-outs they have USED
 - g. R2 holds up how many time-outs each team has USED, and the R1 mirrors the R2.
3. Does the R1 mirror the R2's signal for substitution (#15)? Yes--(Rule Book page 24 #6).
4. Has the NFHS revised the rule on "Embellished" or "Bedazzled" styled shoes? Yes--updated last week to read: They are legal as long as they don't present a safety concern or are likely to detach from the shoe. (Rule 4-1-5)
5. Does the libero tracker have to track all exchanges? No, it does not matter which libero is in the set. Think of it as two players playing one spot. Scenario: Team S lists two liberos at the top of the lineup sheet and libero tracking sheet. During the first set, L1 completes a libero replacement for #14 The libero tracker puts an "L" on the line next to player #14. A few points later, L2 exchanges with L1. Nothing is recorded on the tracker sheet. If they serve, both liberos must share the same serving position so have the tracker put a triangle around that serving

position on the tracker sheet in which the L1 serves. When player #14 replaces L2, the libero tracker enters the player number next to the "L". It will look as follows: 14 is the starting player on the libero sheet (L 14 L).

6. Can a libero replacement and an exchange occur during the same dead ball? Only when the L1 is moving directly to the serving position and the L2 will serve (same as the Doe-See-Doe). Scenario: Team R wins the rally and the L1 (#9) completes a libero exchange with L2 (#8) who assumes the serving position. The entering position player (#5) completes a replacement with the exiting position player (#1). Legal because a replacement and an exchange can occur on the same dead ball when the libero is replacing the player serving in the right back position without leaving the court. (Rule 10-4-1d).

7. Can teams have coordinated (**verbal**) cheers on the bench? **Yes--verbal bench celebrations are legal.** Teams can stand or sit and yell a cheer such as (Ace-Ace-Ace) while clapping, quickly swinging a towel, etc. those are spontaneous actions. They are not allowed to add choreographed group physical actions to the cheer such as (i.e. running up and down the bench, stomping their feet in unison, turning around in circles). It does not include the players on the court with their celebrations--the new rule is for the bench celebrations.

8. At the early season tournaments do we allow shared serving? No, you will need to adjust the warmups (some are still sending out team information with the shared serving). If your warmup is ten minutes, then do (5-5). A lot of the information will say after their first match they will use a 2-2-1 format but change that to either 2-2 or 3-3. The no shared serving during warmup was changed for safety purposes.

Mechanics

1. What happens if the libero enters the court when the R1 whistles and signals for serve (no contact has been made), but the R1 sees her run onto the court? R1 blows the whistle and penalizes the team with an unnecessary delay (yellow card), issue a replay, allow the libero to enter the court, and then reauthorizes the server to serve.
2. What happens if the libero enters the court and the server has made contact with the serve? R1 blows the whistle and signals illegal alignment and awards a loss of rally/point to the other team and then allows the libero to enter the court.

Points-to-Ponder

The R2 is checking the starters on the court (it is past the 10-minute roster turn in time). The R2 discovered that the libero on the court for Team R is wearing #31, but there is no libero #31 on the roster it is #33 (inaccurate roster/wrong player number). What does the R2 do?

- a. The set begins with a loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent.
- b. Team R corrects their roster and play will continue.

Case Book page 28 rule 7.1.1 Situation A