

What an amazing week of volleyball action! We are at that halfway point where teams are gearing up for lots of conference matches. October is almost upon us, and many schools are celebrating Homecoming and "Pink" Night. Please remember to be checking for glitter, body paint, stick on tattoos, etc. Also, the WHSAA only allows officials to wear a pink officiating shirt (with proper patches) on the designated night of a school's "Pink" night celebration. In regard to post-season consideration, the WHSAA will allow an extension for official's evaluations until October 12th. After that date if you didn't have your evaluation completed, and you did not turn in your post-season application to the WHSAA office by September 25th you will NOT be on the ballot. If you are still in need of an evaluation, please contact the WHSAA office. Please be sure to check out the information that is posted on our WHSAA Volleyball Officials Department site. There is a lot of great information, and Heidi Linford (WHSAA Volleyball Representative) just added two great charts on what to do as the R2 for roster/lineup infractions. Be sure to continue to send in Good Sport forms to the WHSAA office.

Thanks again for ALL you do!! "It Takes a Village"
Kathy Hamer-Smith

Questions

1. Where do I find more information to help me improve on identifying illegal backrow attacks & blocks, especially on over passed ball situations? Answer: Here are two good resources. (a) The NFHS Pre-Season Guide (page 9); (b) YouTube video by Jim Rixse-NFHS Identifying Illegal Back-Row Attacks & Blocks (Focus on overpass situations).
2. Is it legal to have belly button jewelry? Answer: NO, it is illegal to have body jewelry below the chin. **You don't want to be checking players for this; however, if you notice it during play then you would call it.
3. Do I need to worry about food/drinks on the bench? Answer: NO, but you would call unnecessary delay if there is liquid left on the court after the end of a time out which causes a delay.
4. What is the penalty if a team can't remove glitter, temporary body paint/tattoos etc. and they don't have (6) eligible players? Answer: Penalize the team (1) point for the entire match; resume play; contact the WHSAA office. (Case Book page 14 4.1.8 situation B).
5. Does a substitute have to enter the court after she comes to the zone? Answer: NO, she can return to the team bench with the team receiving an Unnecessary Delay penalty yellow card. (Rule Book page 45 article 7 A.2).
6. Can the R1 whistle net faults? Answer: YES, (Rule Book page 24 C.11 & Officials Manual bottom of page 54). This is primarily the call of the R2, but there may be times when the R2 gets caught transitioning, gets blocked by a player and does not see it, or

it could be on the hitter's side (especially if it is close to the R1 stand). **The goal is teamwork between the R1 and R2.

7. When switching benches who on the bench needs to go around the R1 stand?

Answer: Our state interpretation on team players encompasses all the players who are suited up on the bench, and they will need to go around the R1 standard. Nonsuited team members, managers, and coaches can go in front of the scorer's table. (Rule Book page 37, section 2 article 36).

8. Is it legal for a player to stand on the court line prior to contact of serve? Answer: YES, (Rule Book page 31 section 4 article 3 A).

9. What do I do if a team's crowd/student section thinks they have won the match, but they haven't. They storm the court, release confetti balloons, etc. into playable area? Answer: Stop the match; contact the home management (if no administration is on duty this becomes the head coach); have the playable area made safe; restart the match; contact the WHSAA afterward. **No penalty is assessed to the team as this falls under Spectator Conduct (Rule book page 54 section 3).

10. Do the officials ever get involved with the situation of a player playing too many levels in one day? Answer: NO. If an opponent believes that a team is playing someone more than what the WHSAA Handbook allows (2 levels per day), then that becomes an issue only between the schools' administrations and the WHSAA, as there is a set WHSAA protocol for handling it. ****Please don't ever get involved as an official****

Mechanics---

1. R2 warning whistle reminders for consistency: (Officials Manual page 35, Rule Book page 26)

a. During warmups R2 double-whistles with (15 seconds) remaining.

b. During a timeout the R2 double-whistles at (45 seconds) and then the horn ends the time out at (60 seconds). If both teams are ready to play, prior to the end of the time-out the R2 instructs the timer to stop the clock and whistles a double-whistle to confirm that everyone is ready to play. The R2 then instructs the timer to blow the horn (as the horn always ends the time-out). The R2 then indicates the number of time-outs used and gives the court back to the R1. *The R2 doesn't whistle again after the horn blows!

c. Between sets (New Rule) the R2 double-whistles at (2:30)

2. When do I use the over-the-net signal (#5)

a. A player illegally contacts a ball which is completely on the opponent's side of the net.

b. Contact with an opponent, which interferes with the opponent's legitimate effort to play the ball over the top of the net.

Points to Ponder

1. The first contact by Team R is an overpass that lands briefly on top of the net. The back-row setter for Team R, while standing on the floor, reaches up and taps the ball down to Team S's court. Ruling: Point for Team S back-row attack. Comment: The ball was completely above the height of the net when attacked by the back-row setter. (Case Book page 36, 9.5.4 situation C).



September 23, 2026

NFHS Volleyball Weekly Rule Interpretations

Contacting the Ball – Prolonged contact: Any contact that visibly comes to rest or is caught, held, lifted, or thrown by any part of a player's body, rather than rebounding cleanly from a legal hit.

Passing:

SITUATION 1: A1 receives the serve from Team B. The ball comes to a stop on the inner creases of A1's elbows, is lifted and then separates from the arms when A1 swings their arms upward. **RULING:** Illegal hit.

COMMENT: It is prolonged contact when the ball comes to rest on the body of A1. Prolonged contact is not legal even on the first team contact. (9-4-5)



Overhand Passing (Setting):

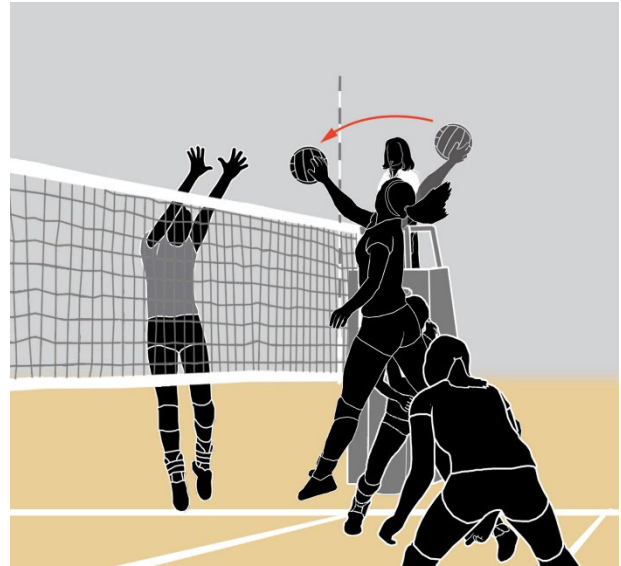
SITUATION 2: A1 receives a pass from A2 and attempts to set the ball to an attacker on Team A. The ball comes to rest in A1's hands before A1 extends their arms, setting the ball toward an attacking teammate. **RULING:** Illegal hit.

COMMENT: It is prolonged contact when the ball comes to rest in the hands of a player attempting to overhand pass the ball. (9-4-5)

Attacking:

SITUATION 3: A1 attacks the ball beginning the contact phase with the ball behind their head and maintains contact throughout the forward arm swing before releasing it toward the deep corner of the opponent's court. **RULING:** Illegal hit.

COMMENT: It is prolonged contact on an attack when the attacker maintains contact with the ball through the arm swing and throws the ball rather than legally contacting it. (9-5-4)



SITUATION 4: A1 attacks the ball using their fingertips to direct the ball to an open spot on Team B's court. The contact begins in front of A1 and the ball is controlled and directed with a quick push to the open spot. **RULING:** Legal hit. **COMMENT:** Not all contact that is controlled is prolonged contact. The ball did not come to rest or become caught, held, lifted, or thrown. (9-5-4)

Blocking:

SITUATION 5: A1 and A2 are jumping to block B1's attack. B1 tips the ball just over the block. A1 reaches back, catches the ball and throws it back to Team B's side of the court. **RULING:** Illegal hit. **COMMENT:** It is prolonged contact on a block when a blocking player catches the ball, carries it through a throwing motion, and releases it over the net. (9-5-4)

