



PLAY.
PERFORM.
COMPETE.
TOGETHER.

2025-26 NFHS Volleyball Rules PowerPoint

Rules Changes
Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis

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2025/2026

- **RULE CHANGES**
- **POINTS OF EMPHASIS**
- **REMINDERS**
- **NHIAA/NHVOA POLICIES**



2025-26 NFHS Volleyball Rules Changes

THE BALL

3-2-1 NOTE (NEW)

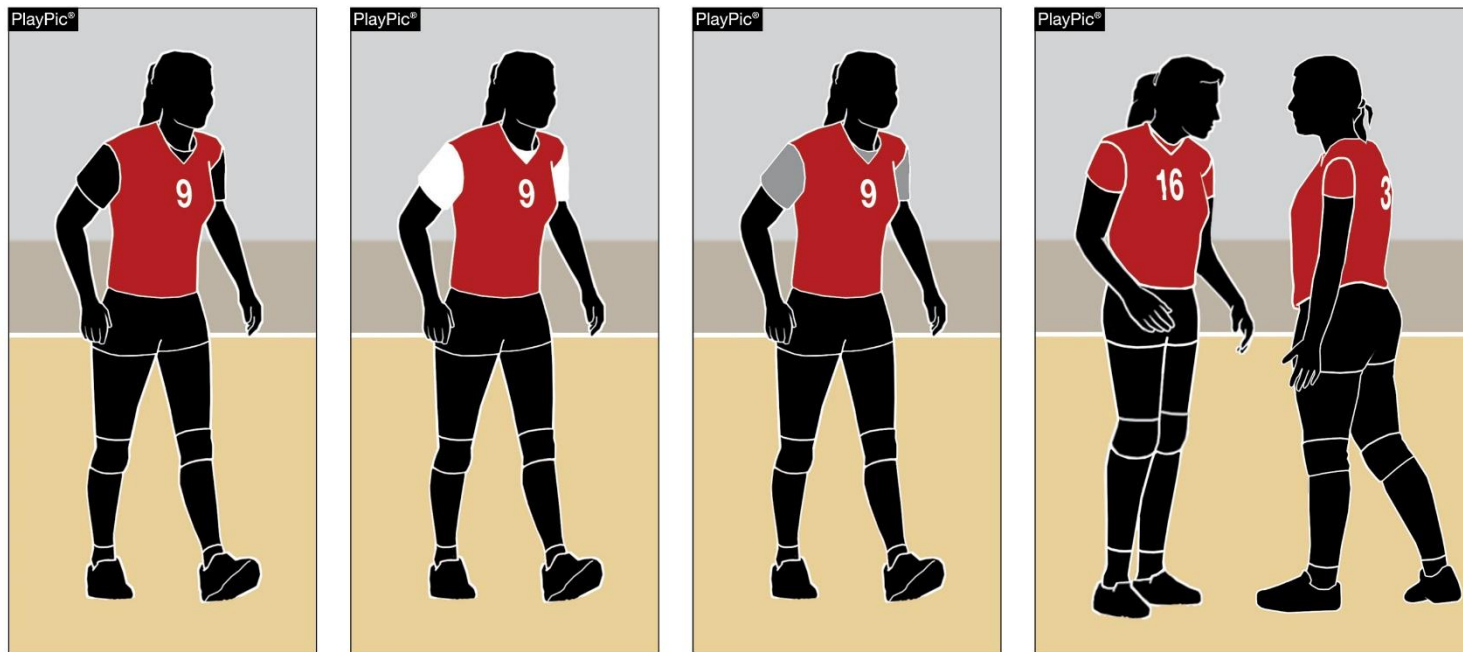
- Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may **adopt** the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball. There are no restrictions on color or shape of panels for textured volleyballs.



LEGAL UNIFORM

4-2-1h(3), 4-2-1i(2)

- Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform. However, all team members, other than the libero, must wear matching colors.



LEGAL UNIFORM

4-2-4d, f

- Beginning **July 1, 2029**, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top, eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline.



LEGAL UNIFORM

4-2-4d, f

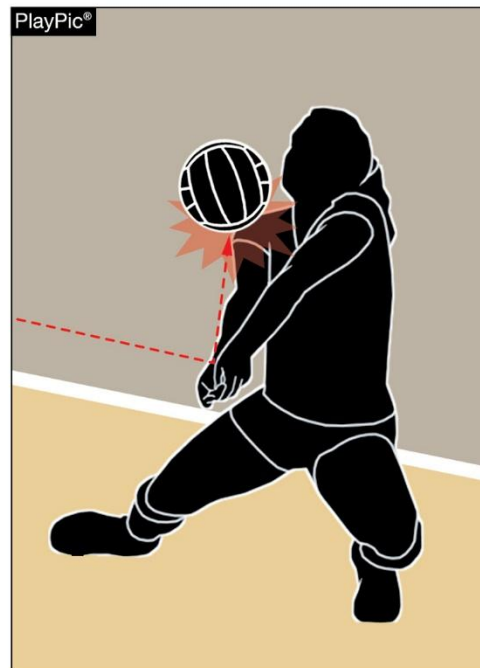
- Numbers **not centered** on the upper half of the uniform top will be illegal beginning with the 2029 season. When a team cannot begin the match with six players wearing legal uniforms, a loss of rally/point shall be awarded to the opponent at the beginning of the match, and the state association shall be notified.



CONTACTING THE BALL

9-4-8c (NEW)

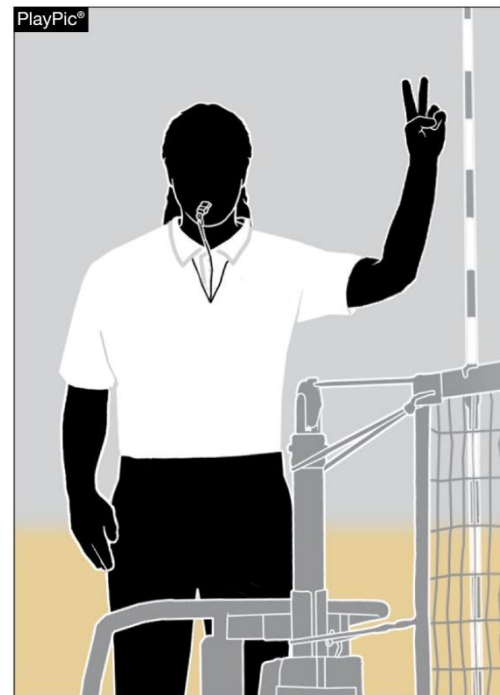
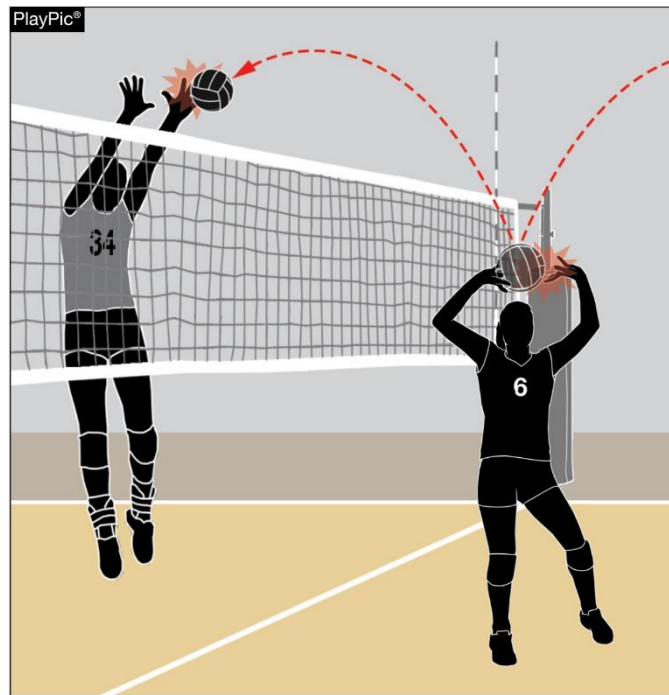
- Eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate. This allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second team contact do not create an advantage for the offending team.
- Prolonged contact and multiple attempts to play the ball are still faults.



CONTACTING THE BALL

9-4-8c (NEW)

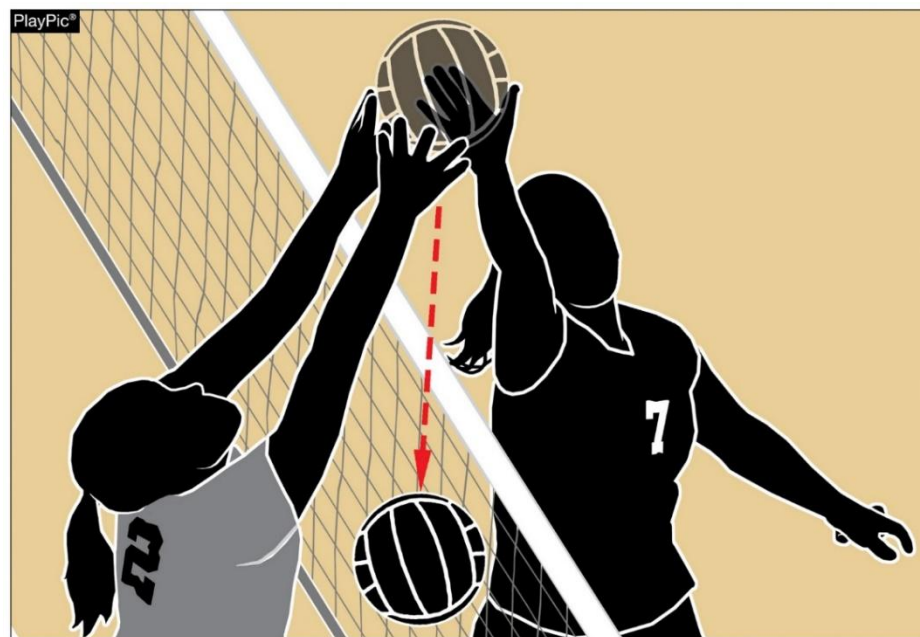
- If a player contacts the ball multiple times during one attempt to play the ball on a team's second hit and an opponent is next to contact the ball, a multiple contact fault has occurred.



CONTACTING THE BALL

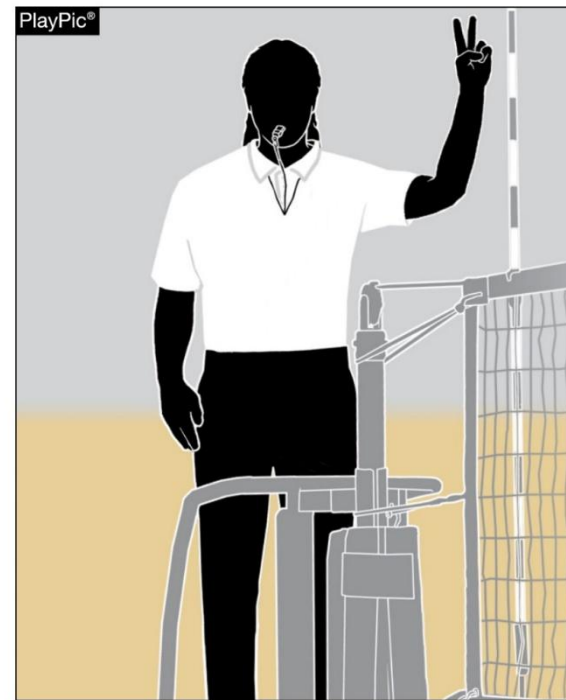
9-4-8c (NEW)

- If a player contacts the ball multiple times during one attempt to play the ball on a team's second hit and players from both teams next contact the ball at the same time in the plane of the net – legal and play continues.



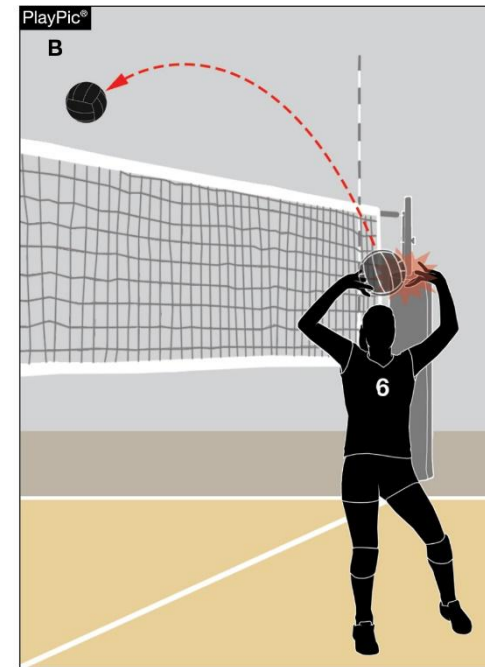
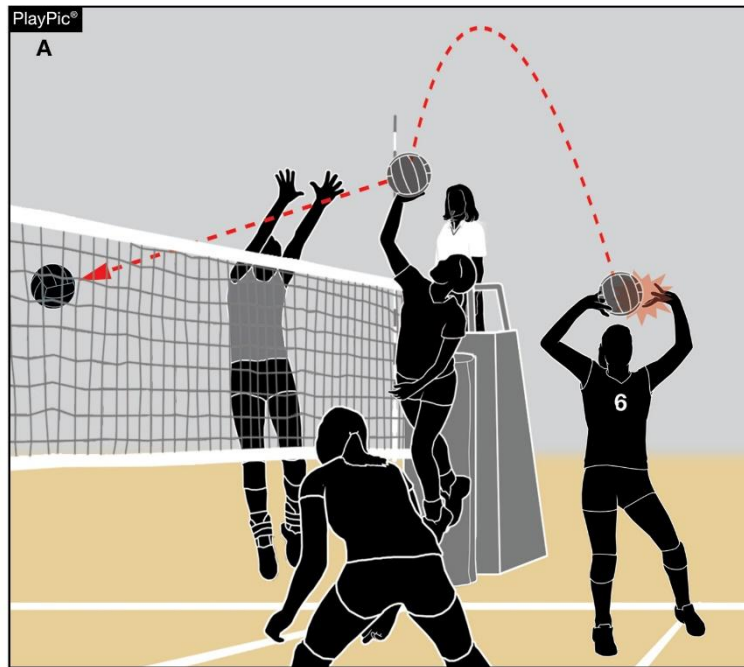
BALL HANDLING

- If there is prolonged contact, a catch/throw or other illegal contact, or a team has multiple contacts on the second hit and the ball is not next played by a teammate, the first referee needs to be prepared to signal those faults.



BALL HANDLING

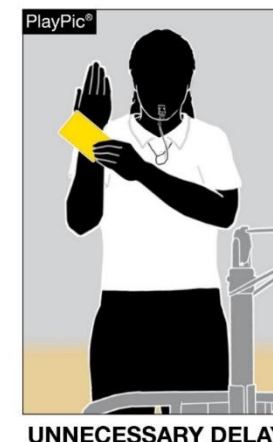
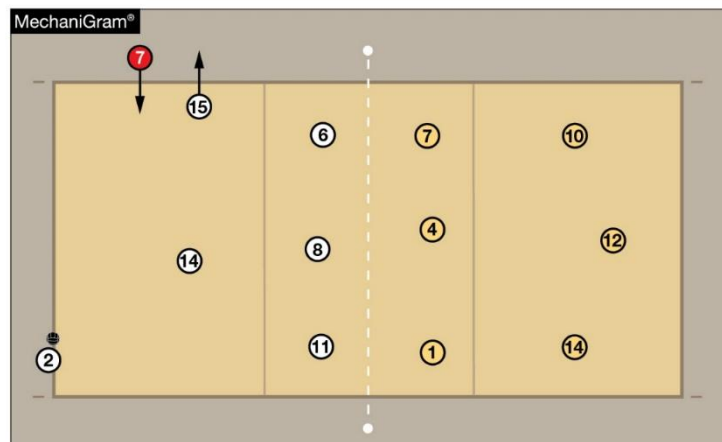
- First referees still must judge the contact on a second team hit to determine its legality; however, as long as it is next played by a teammate (A), it is legal. If the ball crosses over the net or is not next played by a teammate (B), it becomes a fault.



LIBERO REPLACEMENT

10-4 PENALTIES 1

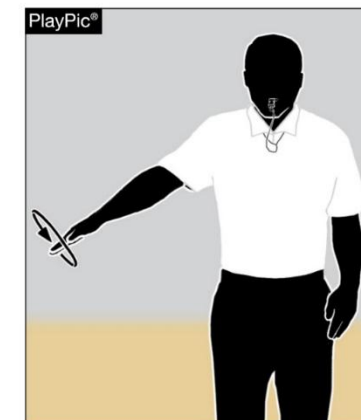
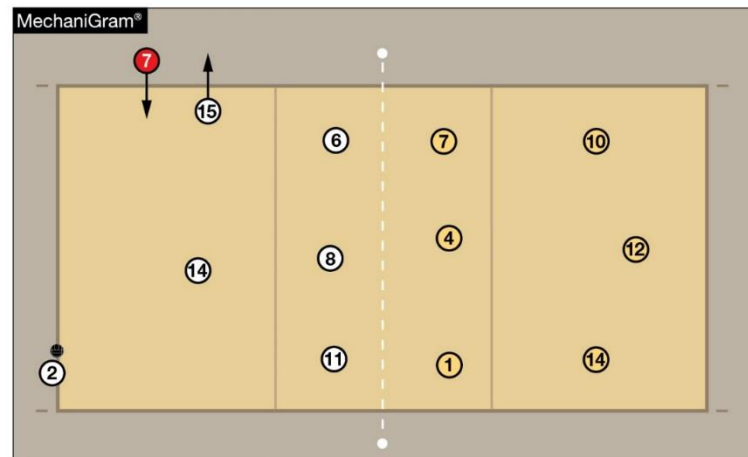
- The penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement is now an unnecessary delay if identified BEFORE **contact of serve**.



LIBERO REPLACEMENT

10-4 PENALTIES 1

- If an illegal libero replacement occurs and is identified AFTER **contact of serve**, it is an illegal alignment fault.



ILLEGAL ALIGNMENT



2025 NFHS Volleyball Reminders/Points of Emphasis

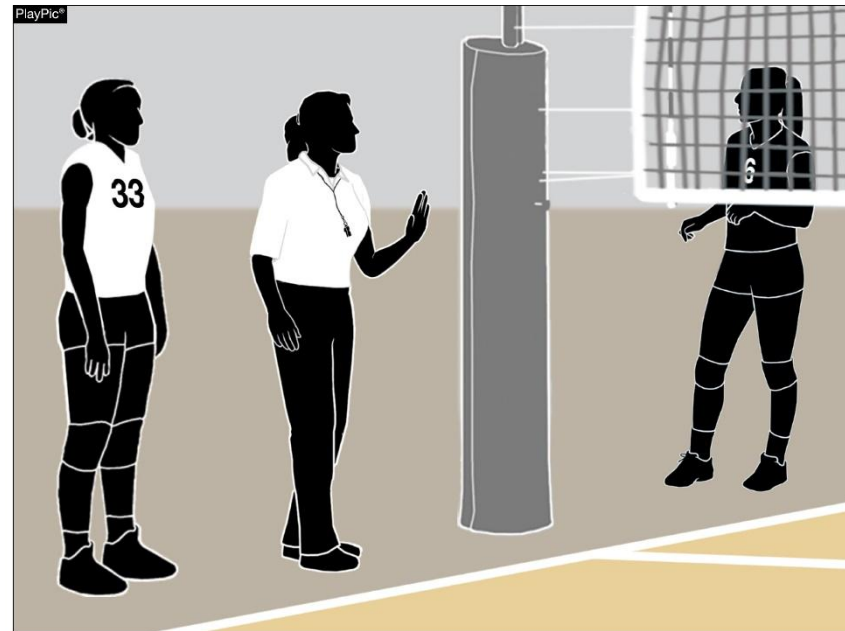
SUBMITTING A LINEUP

- We will keep it simple:

Lineups are to be submitted without first looking at the opponent's lineup!

Substitution

- If each team has a substitute(s), the second referee should hold up a hand to indicate to the substitute to wait until the second referee has completed the opposing team's request and entry.



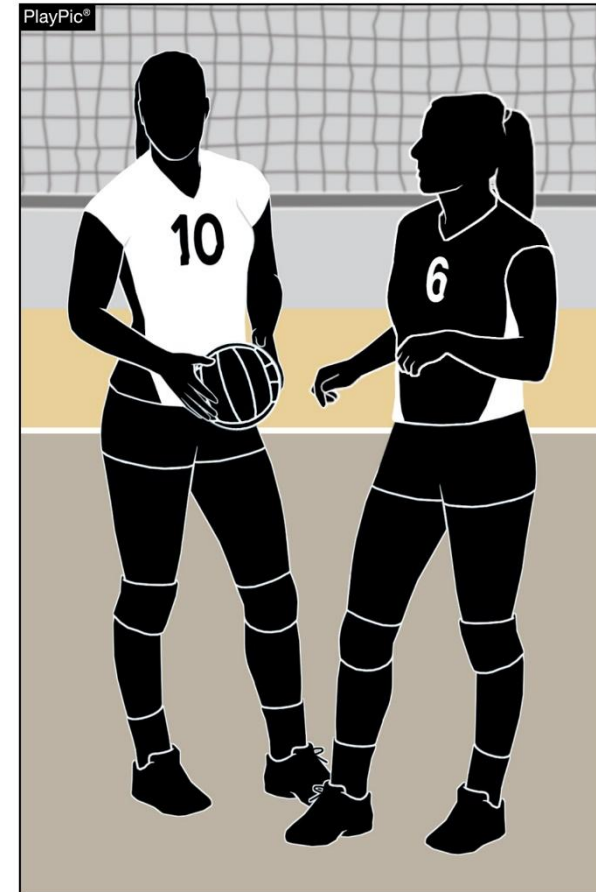
Substitution Clarification

- The R2 does not recognize a substitution request from a player on the court.
- Substitution requests are recognized from the head coach or if a bench player enters the substitution zone.

UNIFORMS — CONTRASTING COLORS



- NFHS Volleyball Rules require the libero jersey to clearly contrast from the team jersey and the body of the uniform number must clearly contrast from the uniform top. These rules are in place to assist officials in quickly identifying the libero as well as player numbers. There are infinite color shades and combinations which makes it difficult to create rules defining what colors contrast from one another.



UNIFORMS — CONTRASTING COLORS

- Tips for selecting color combinations:
 - If the uniform is light colored, such as white, the body of the number should be dark or even black.
 - If the jersey is dark, the body of the number should be light or even white.
 - Avoid too many colors on the team jersey as it limits the colors for a legal libero jersey and uniform numbers.



ILLEGAL



LEGAL



LEGAL

EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES, LEGAL UNIFORM 4-1 & 4-2 PENALTIES

- Clarifies when a team cannot begin a match with six players without body paint or glitter, after attempting to remove, the same penalty for illegal uniform applies.
 - A loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent at the beginning of the match and the state association shall be notified to determine further action or penalty as deemed necessary.



Instructions for Libero Tracker

<div> <div>(S)</div> <div>TEAM: <i>RED</i></div> <div>L: <i>10</i></div> </div>			
Serve Order	Service	SP	
I	<i> </i>	<i>6</i>	<i>L6L62L76</i>
II	<i> </i>	<i>3</i>	
III	<i> </i>	<i>7</i>	
IV	<i> </i>	<i>1</i>	<i>L1L1L</i>
V	<i> </i>	<i>8</i>	
VI	<i> </i>	<i>4</i>	<i>34</i>

Team Substitutions: *1 2 3 4* 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

- It is no longer acceptable to cross off the libero or the replacement player's number on the tracking sheet when there is a libero replacement.
- The libero tracker will only cross off the number of the replacement when a substitute enters the set.
- This helps keep the tracking sheet legible and avoids confusion when trying to count the number of substitutions a team has used in a set.

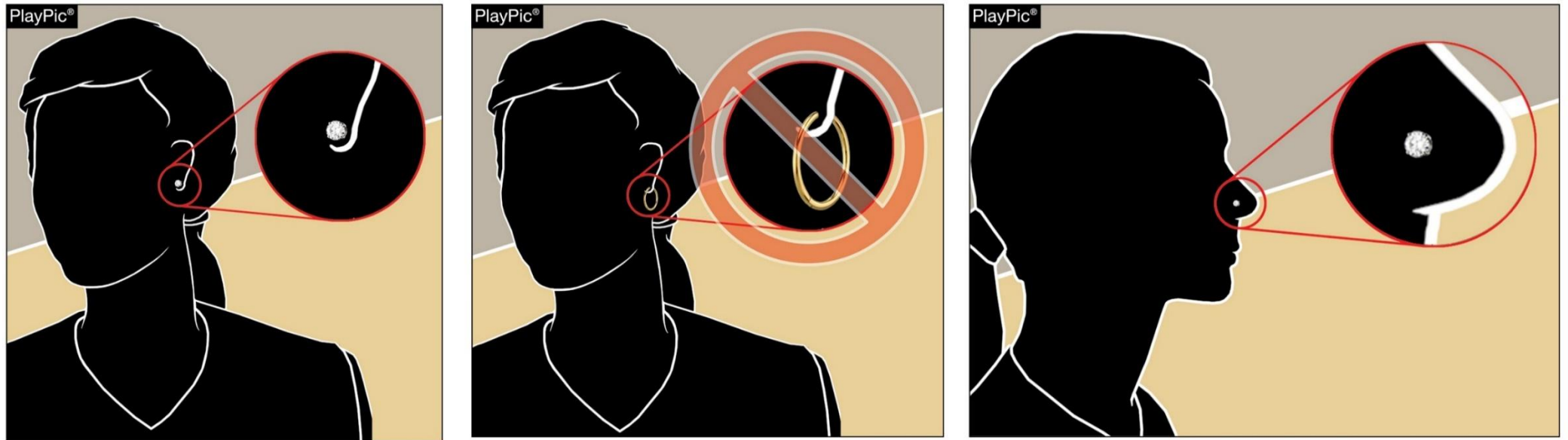
Scoring best practices



The scoring crew is an integral part of the officiating team. The scorer must:

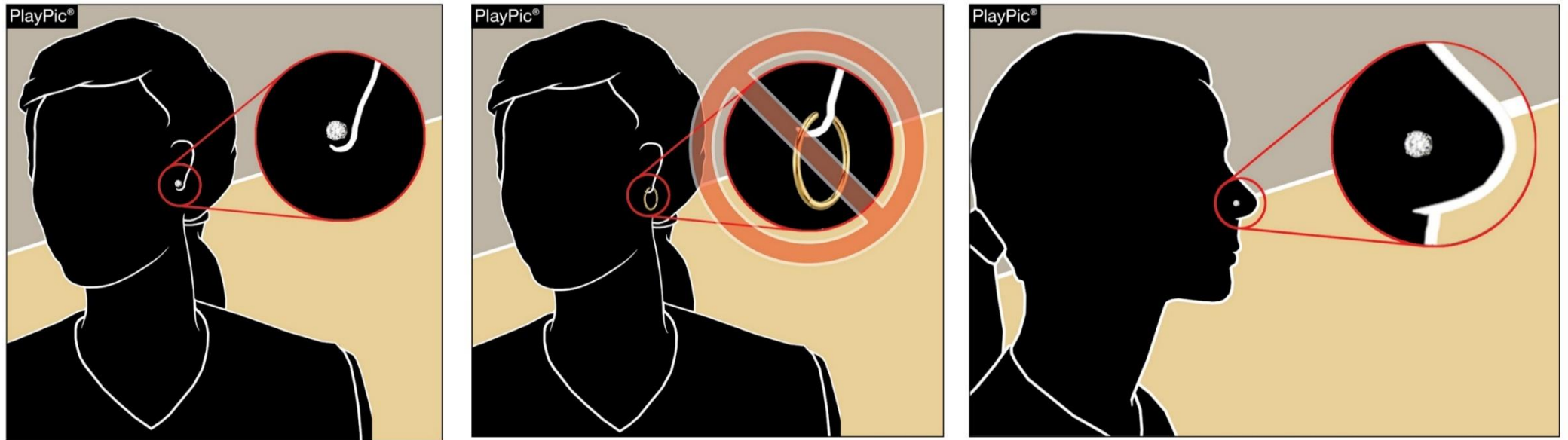
- Arrive no later than 20 minutes before match time.
- Complete the match information in the scorebook/scoresheet or an electronic scoring device.
- Accept the team rosters and lineups and record the lineups.
- Secure each team's lineup by placing them upside down on the table.
- Collaborate with the R2 to ensure each team's lineup is correct on the R2's lineup card and verify teams are in correct starting positions on the court prior to each set.
- Establish a routine with the assistant scorer for handling substitutions and libero replacements.
- Ensure readiness to the R2 after each substitution.
- Use contrasting colors to indicate full rounds of service.
- Notify the R2 if there are any scoring issues.
- Communicate with the R2 during time-outs and between sets.

Jewelry and Accessories



- Small, secured stud or post jewelry may be worn above the chin.
 - No jewelry is permitted below the chin.

Jewelry and Accessories



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 - No jewelry is permitted below the chin.

JEWELRY AND ACCESSORIES



- Gauges are legal



Jewelry and Accessories



- Rings such as Nose rings, Eye brow rings, lip rings, industrial bars, etc. are ILLEGAL.



R2/R1 Mechanics

- The only time the R2/R1 gives the number of a player during a violation is for a net touch.
- The R2/R1 does not give a number of a player for center line violations
- The R2/R1 does not give a number of a player for touches of the ball at the net

NHIAA/NHVOA POLICIES



**Complete list of NHIAA policies is
available on the volleyball link at
www.NHIAA.org**

NHIAA Policy



- **OFFICIALS' JURISDICTION** begins when the official arrives on the floor. The officials' arrival on the floor shall be at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time of the game. The officials' jurisdiction extends through periods when the game may be momentarily stopped for any reason. The jurisdiction of the officials is terminated, and the final score has been approved when all officials leave the visual confines of the playing area. **NOTE:** The officials retain clerical authority over the contest through the completion of any reports, including those imposing disqualifications, which are responsive to actions occurring while the officials had jurisdiction. State associations may intercede in the event of unusual incidents that occur before, during or after the officials' jurisdiction has ended or in the event that a contest is terminated prior to the conclusion of regulation play.

Scoring table

MATCH TABLE SET UP

Per NFHS Volleyball Rule 5-8-2 and 5-7-2 to ensure proper personnel communication throughout the game: Timer, Home/Official Bookkeeper, Libero Tracker, Opponent Bookkeeper.

The following is strongly encouraged at the table:

- a.** Table size should accommodate five people
- b.** Five people maximum, per table
- c.** Table personnel are required to arrive 20 minutes prior to match start (per NFHS)
- d.** Must provide a seat for the away team's bookkeeper
- e.** Table personnel should include at least one adult
- f.** Do not switch out table personnel during the match
- g.** No cell phones at the game table

NHIAA POLICY

JV/Sub-Varsity warmups

- **Coin Toss Held**
- **6 (Six) Minutes –JV/Sub-varsity: *Home Team Warm-up**
- **6 (Six) Minutes -JV/Sub-varsity: Away Team Warm-up**
- **3 (Three) Minutes - Shared - No Serving**
- **While one team is warming up, the other team should be doing no type of warm-ups in the gym where the volleyball court is located.**

*** Note that the during a JV/sub-varsity match the HOME team will have the first 6-minute warmup.**



PreMatch Varsity Warm ups:

- ***3-6-6-3**
- **3-minute transition time (following JV match)**clock starts when jv match finishes.**
- **Pre match conference/coin toss**
- **6- minute visiting team**
- **6- minute home team**
- **3- minute shared time**
- **During the 6-minute warm up time for each team the opposing team may not be warming up (of any kind) in the same gym.**
- **During the 3-minute transition and shared time teams must remain on their own side of the court. No serving is allowed.**
- **Note: The NHIAA Volleyball Committee has voted that if the visiting team is running late the officials may use their discretion to confer with both coaches regarding the order of warm-ups.**

Length of Matches:



- **Varsity:** 3 out of 5 sets to 25 with the 5th set, if necessary, to 15
- **JV:** 3 sets(25-25-15) regardless of whether a team wins the first 2 sets. *When the score of a sub-varsity match is 2-0 there will be no coin toss by the official prior to the third set. The teams will return directly to their home bench and will prepare for the third set. Service will go to the team that has lost the previous two sets.*

Stopping Matches for Milestone Recognition



- During a regular season match a set may be stopped to celebrate a milestone (i.e. 500 kills, 1000 assists, etc.) and the celebrating team will not be charged a timeout. Teams will report to the bench areas for a brief ceremony and then return to the court. Post season matches will not be stopped.

Late Arriving Teams

- **If a visiting team fails to arrive at a contest at its' scheduled start time, without notifying the home school, the officials shall not wait longer than 45 minutes. After the 45 minute wait the game will be called as a "no game." In the event the visiting team calls ahead to inform the home school they are experiencing difficulties arriving for the start of the contest the officials shall remain in order to start the contest.**

Disqualifications



- **Officials will report to the supervisor of officials the issuance of all conduct cards (yellow or red) and all disqualifications of coaches and players.**
- **Officials will also report any unusual situations at a facility, illegal uniforms, spectator problems, unusual game situations, etc. to the supervisor of officials and/or the rules interpreter.**

Check the website



Check the NHIAA website for current policy and procedures for volleyball.



Reruiting Officials

- **As with all officiating organizations we are in need of more officials.**

Program is open and can be accessed through the NHIAA website or the NHVOA website.

Program is tailored to the level of the applicant.

Questions During The Season



- Rule Clarifications- Contact Rules Interpreter Rick Forge
forge@worldpath.net
- Facility/Official issues- Contact Supervisor Phil Mollica
pmoll2001@yahoo.com
- Scheduling issues- Contact Assigner Dick Dumais
ddumais11@me.com

Have a great season

