



2011-12 NFHS VOLLEYBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS

Publisher's Note: The National Federation of State High School Associations is the only source of official high school interpretations. They do not set aside nor modify any rule. They are made and published by the NFHS in response to situations presented.

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Corrections to Rules Book: Page 3 – Editorial Changes 4-1-8 should be 4 NOTE 2; Page 48 – Points of Emphasis #4: Suspended Net Systems, line 5 should read: “A system also having poles on one side of the net used to retract the system may result in a replay when contacted by the ball.”; Page 60 should read “#1 Illegal Alignment / Improper Server/Inaccurate Lineup”

Corrections to Case Book and Manual: None.

Corrections to Preseason Guide: None.

SITUATION 1: Team A, with five players, has just been awarded a loss of rally/point and the ball for next serve. However, the vacant position rotates to right back position. The first referee whistles and immediately awards a loss of rally/point and the ball returns to Team B. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** There is no signal for the vacant position other than when the team with five players receives the ball to serve. After a pause the first referee whistles, signals awarding loss of rally/point and immediately returns the ball to the opponent. (1-3-3)

SITUATION 2: Team A arrives at Team B's school and as it begins warm-ups the head coach of Team A notices that there is a white sleeve located across the top of the net that has “SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES” in three locations across the net sleeve on both sides. The head coach of Team A approaches the R1 questioning the use of the sleeve. The R1 confirms that the sleeve is no

wider than 3 3/8 inches, does not interfere with the height of the net or play and is, therefore, legal under Rule 3-1-1. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The use of a white net sleeve is now permitted on the top of the net providing it is no wider than 3 3/8 inches and may display the school name, insignia, mascot and/or advertising professionally printed or by way of a decal on the sleeve. When using a net sleeve, it shall be secured so it does not affect the net height or interfere with play. (3-1-1)

SITUATION 3: During the second set, the volleyball becomes lodged in the gymnasium ceiling rafters and cannot be returned to play. The ball is red, white and blue. The host school has an all-white volleyball and another red, white and blue volleyball that can be used. The visiting coach would like to use an all-white volleyball. The R1 requires the red, white and blue volleyball to be used as that was the original color and model of the competition volleyball. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The referees should make the effort to have the same color(s) of volleyball used throughout play. If this cannot be done, the R1, unless determined otherwise by state association policy, has the authority to approve a replacement volleyball. It is suggested the host school have at least one extra game ball available for play at all contests. (3-2, 5-3-1b)

SITUATION 4: At the prematch conference, the head coach for Team B requests the R1 to look at the hair clips some of the players want to wear during competition and confirm if they may be worn. The flat clips, no

longer than two inches, are (a) painted orange with a small tiger head painted on the clip as well or (b) painted orange with a small tiger head hot glued on the flat clip. **RULING:** The R1 rules the flat clips in (a) are legal as the painting and design have not changed the flat integrity of the clip and in (b) the clips are illegal as the addition of the tiger head raises up above the clip and changes the flat integrity of the clip. (4-1-5)

SITUATION 5: Team A, due to an injury, will be completing the set with only five players. The vacant position is currently the LF. The LB will be coming up as the back-row setter. The LB may go all the way to the net as there is not a LF player to overlap. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** With no front-row player, there is no potential overlap between the LB and LF. (6-4-3b)

SITUATION 6: The coach from Team B fails to submit a complete and written, accurate numeric lineup to the scorer within the prescribed time limit for the second set. It is necessary for the penalty under Rule 7-1 – loss of rally/point being awarded to the opponent at the start of the next set – to be invoked. After the R2 signals ready to play to the R1 and prior to the signal and whistle for serve, the R2 whistles and signals inaccurate lineup using Signal #1 with the R1 then mirroring the signal. **RULING:** Correct procedure. (7-1-Penalty, Official Signal No. 1)

SITUATION 7: A back-row player is completing an attack from in front of the attack line and the ball is completely above the height of the net at

contact and the ball completely crosses the net. **RULING:** Illegal attack. (9-5-1b, 9-5-4, 9-5-5b, 9-5-5 Note, Official Signal No. 8)

SITUATION 8: A back-row player is completing an attack from in front of the attack line and the ball is completely above the height of the net at contact and the ball is legally blocked by the opponents. **RULING:** Illegal attack. (9-5-1b, 9-5-4, 9-5-5b, 9-5-5 Note, Official Signal No. 8)

SITUATION 9: A back-row player on Team A is completing an attack in

front of the attack line and the ball is completely above the height of the net at the moment of contact. Team B's block consists of a front-row player and a back-row player as they contact the ball on the block. **RULING:** Double foul and a replay is called. **COMMENT:** In this situation there is an illegal attack by Team A's back-row player and an illegal block by Team B's back-row player. (9-5-1b, 9-5-4, 9-5-5b, 9-5-5 Note, 9-7-2)

SITUATION 10: A back-row player who is making Team A's second contact is in front of the attack line and

the ball is completely above the height of the net at the moment of contact. The back-row player misses the ball, and it is clearly not going to cross the net. Although there is a Team A player in the vicinity who could make Team A's third team contact, the Team B front-row players reach completely over the net to block the ball before the ball enters the plane of the net. **RULING:** Illegal block. **COMMENT:** The only foul that has occurred is the illegal block as the Team A back-row player did not execute an attack hit as defined in Rule 9-5-1. (9-6-4)