

To: OHSAA Boys Volleyball Officials
From: Lucas Tuggle, Director of Officiating Development – Boys Volleyball
Re: Plays of the Week – Week 3
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024

Season Reminders:

#1: Warm-Up Protocol during the Regular Season

You will most frequently encounter host schools using a 20-minute warm-up divided as follows:

2 minutes – both teams ball handling on their side of the net

6 minutes – the serving team has the whole court*

6 minutes – the receiving team has the whole court*

3 minutes – the serving team has the whole court*

3 minutes – the receiving team has the whole court*

***NOTE:** In gyms with insufficient space (determined by the host school head coach or the referees), there is no use of volleyballs in the competition gym by the “off team” while the opponent has exclusive use of the court and the playing surface. If the host school head coach indicates the facility does not accommodate the “off team” warming up with volleyballs, this decision must be honored. Otherwise, the referees assess the facility and determine whether the “off team” may warm up with volleyballs as long as the safety of the team that has exclusive use of the court is not compromised. There is no use of volleyballs permitted in hallways, and the use of the auxiliary gym must be disclosed at the pre-match meeting and offered equally to both teams. *If the off team is allowed to warm up with volleyballs, the referees are required to monitor both teams’ warm-ups and, if the “off team” fails to control volleyballs, that team’s warm-up must be stopped.*

2: Volleyball

Our approved volleyball, the Molten Flistatec is hard to purchase right now. As such, you may see teams with a red-white-and-green version as well as the more typical red-white-and-blue volleyball. In addition, you may see the Flistatec with the words “NCAA” or “USA Volleyball” prominently displayed. All these are legal volleyballs. Since there is no NFHS authenticating mark for the Flistatec, don’t look for it. New programs in particular may struggle to procure a Flistatec volleyball and, when these programs are the host school, you may have to locate a couple of the best volleyballs available and play the match with them. The backup ball should be the same color and preferably the same manufacturer. If using a different ball, get the coaches to agree; everyone wants to play the matches! Play the matches and report.

#3: Referee Stand Safety Issues

This is a point of emphasis where every referee has a vested interest in the stability of the referee stand and the need for sufficient padding. Recently, there have been numerous reports of stands collapsing. It's often young people who have had minimal training in setting up the referee stand. As referees, we are on our own in terms of making sure the platform on which we stand is locked in and safe. In addition, be aware of the required padding to the proper height and around the exposed metal. If there are issues with stand safety or the padding, communicate with the host administrator/home team coach to get the issue resolved.

#4: Working with Coaches

As referees, we are facilitators, working with host administration, volunteers at the officials' table, coaches, and players to make the matches all about the student-athletes on the court. When there is a rule change, we show patience and strive to educate to get everyone to understand and come into compliance with the modified rule. The new coaching zone is a great opportunity for additional instruction to occur and the location where the head coach chooses to stand. That said, the rule change allowing one assistant coach AT A TIME to be up instructing the team on a dead ball is really good for the game. Teams may have one or more assistant coaches who specialize in tactics or who instruct specialized positions. Let's embrace this change and spend our energy on managing the match as long as coaches are focusing their efforts on coaching their players! When multiple assistants take turns getting off the bench to instruct, as long as one of the coaches is in the process of returning to the bench as another gets up to coach, we should not have an issue. Also, there are times where we have multiple assistant coaches up during the same dead ball, but only one is instructing while the other is cheering and encouraging the players on the court. Focus on what is important. If the coaches aren't bothering us, we should be happy!

- At an appropriate time, remind/educate coaches who are positioned close to or beyond the end line that the head coach's distance from the R2 can affect being heard/seen in terms of honoring a request on a dead ball, especially if the gym is noisy.
- If there is an issue involving more than one assistant coach at a time standing to coach on a dead ball, gently reminding the head coach is the proper way to go.
- Remember that volleyball should be exciting and that when we have assistant coaches and players showing that excitement by getting off the bench to cheer is natural. We don't want folks getting too close to the court but don't be overly concerned unless there is marginal or unsporting conduct involved or the bench personnel behavior is over the top.

- Remember that an assistant coach is allowed to get off the bench on a dead ball to approach the R2 and make any number of informational requests as long as this is not too frequent and does not become disruptive.
- Communicate kindly and with compassion regarding uniform issues. No one ordered marginal uniforms as a way of bothering the referees. :) Work with coaches, communicate as clearly as possible, and understand that some of these coaches didn't order the jerseys or new jerseys haven't been delivered. Coaches might not understand the change related to the border around jersey numbers no longer being considered in terms of whether the numbers are considered "clearly contrasting from the body of the jersey tops." Play and report rather than penalize on marginal jersey number contrast issues and, if player numbers are visible due to trim around them, they may be technically non-compliant since 4-2-4c says the border can't be used to consider whether the numbers are clearly contrasting; if you can still clearly see the numbers, inform the coach of the issue, but don't penalize. Play and report to our DOD. Remember, different referees may have different opinions on visibility. If the numbers are clearly NOT visible, assess a penalty point to start the match (first set only), play and report.