

To: OHSAA Boys Volleyball Officials
From: Lucas Tuggle, Director of Officiating Development – Boys Volleyball
Re: Plays of the Week – Week 4
Date: Friday, April 5, 2024

Question and Answers:

Q: What format should be used for the lineup?

A: Rule 7-1-2a, 7-1-4, Lineup, “in proper serving order” (page 31).

Q: Is a team allowed to play two varsity matches on the same night versus the same, common opponent?

A: Yes, and with no set limitation since it's two varsity matches. (OHSAA Volleyball General Regulations, 17.A. I) Interscholastic Participation. 2. “All varsity dual matches shall be played in a best three of five format.” Interpretation: when two teams play each other in back-to-back matches, these are considered two dual matches. The 6-set limitation is focused on “swing players” who typically play both sub-varsity and Varsity on the same date of play versus the same school (common opponent).

Q: Can the libero wear a different colored uniform bottom?

A: No, all uniform bottoms must be like-colored (same basic color/shade range). Rule 4-2-1i Legal Uniform, Rules Book. (Page 18)

Q: What is the net height for junior high/middle school matches (7th/8th grade)?

A: 7' 4 and $\frac{1}{8}$ ”

Q: Can an assistant coach stand to instruct the team in the coaching zone during a dead ball?

A: Yes, 12-2-6, one assistant coach at a time may stand during dead-ball situations with another assistant allowed to stand to instruct the team as the first assistant is returning to the bench.

Q: I attended 4 local OHSAA girls' volleyball meetings. How many boys' local meetings do I need to attend?

A: 1 boys' local meeting,

Q: What are the proper techniques for line judges when a ball lands in the corner away from both line judges?

A: When a ball lands in the far corner for both LJs, getting the call correct can be challenging. Each LJ signals what he/she observed (in/out/touch). It takes two “ins” for the ball to be considered in bounds. When a ball lands “in” on one line but “out” on the other, the ball is considered out of bounds. Both LJs must signal what they saw on their respective lines with the key understanding that if a line judge sees a clear “touch” by a defensive player, the proper signal for that LJ is “touch” even if the ball landed in on that LJ’s line. The “touch” signal is the most helpful to the R1 when the ball is signaled out by the other LJ who doesn’t see the attack touched. When one LJ signals “in,” and the other signals “out,” the team that attacked the ball may point to the LJ signaling “in” to argue the ball was inbounds, so this may need to be clarified by the referees.

Q: What is the most important thing for the referees when an injury occurs during a rally?

A: When either referee becomes aware that a player has been injured, that referee should whistle strongly to kill the rally to prevent further injury. The R2 should quickly authorize help from the bench to attend to the injured athlete. If the R2 doesn’t do this, the R1 should authorize the coaching staff to go to the player. 2022-2023 Rules Book Points of Emphasis and OHSAA PowerPoint.

Q: When a player appears seriously injured, how much time should the R2 give the coach to communicate a decision regarding replacing the player or requesting an available time-out? What should the referees focus on?

A: When it becomes clear that an injury is serious and the athlete will have to come out of the set, the referees should not be concerned about how much time is passing or pressing for a decision about replacing the player or requesting an available time-out. The new approach to injury management (2022-2023 Rule Book Points of Emphasis) stresses common sense, flexibility, and compassion. Medical personnel handle the assessment of the extent of the injury and treatment and decide when and how the injured athlete should be moved off the court. The injury results in an official’s time-out, and there is no time frame for moving the player to be able to resume play. As the injured athlete is attended to, referees show concern, ensure line judges keep a respectable distance, do not allow personnel exchanges until after the injury is resolved, work with the table to verify time-outs available, determine whether an exceptional sub will be required, identify libero status (in/out, and communicate regarding whether the whistle to stop play will result in a replay or whether the rally outcome was already clear, and communicate when appropriate with both coaches.