



# Ohio High School Athletic Association

Bob Goldring, Interim Executive Director

August 20, 2020

TO: Volleyball Head Coaches & Member School Athletic Directors

FR: Emily Gates, Director of Sport Management

RE: Volleyball Guidance – August 19 Health Director’s Order & Volleyball Regulation Modifications

## **HEALTH DIRECTOR’S ORDER & VOLLEYBALL**

Based on the Health Director’s Order that was released on the evening of August 19, there have been many questions on how this affects the sport of volleyball, as volleyball is a sport that often has multi-matches on the same day against separate opponents. Please know that the following is based on the order and our interpretation. If there is to be further clarification on this topic, it will come from the Ohio Department of Health. We understand the urgency of these events occurring this weekend, or as early as today, and wanted to make sure we addressed any questions that have come our way.

The August 19 Health Director’s Order that comes from the Governor’s Office and the Department of Health can be found at the link below.  
[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/08/19/file\\_attachments/1521949/Sports%20Order%2008.19.20.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/OHOOD/2020/08/19/file_attachments/1521949/Sports%20Order%2008.19.20.pdf)

For the purpose of this communication, please reference item **6. Safety Requirements for Sports to Practice or Compete, Section C. Practices/Games/Tournaments, Item. VIII**, which states:

*6-C-VIII: To limit exposure of players, no team shall play against more than a single opponent team in any twenty-four hour period; provided that two teams can play multiple games or matches against each other within that twenty-four hour period, if desired.*

Where volleyball is specifically addressed, is in the sector specific Responsible RestartOhio document for Youth, Collegiate, Amateur and Professional Sports, which can be found at the link below:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Youth-Collegiate-Amateur-Club-Pro-Sports.pdf>

For the purpose of this communication, please reference the **last bullet-point of the “Mandatory” column for Practices/Games/Tournaments. The mandatory item states:**

*Football, soccer, field hockey, hockey, wrestling, lacrosse, basketball and volleyball are limited to one team vs team game/match a day, but multiple games/matches may be played between the same teams in one day.*

**BASED ON THE AUGUST 19 HEALTH ORDER, ALL VOLLEYBALL MATCHES AGAINST MULTIPLE TEAMS ON THE SAME DAY SHALL NOT OCCUR. VOLLEYBALL MATCHES IN THE STATE OF OHIO ARE LIMITED TO ONE COMMON OPPONENT WITHIN A 24-HOUR WINDOW.**

## **VOLLEYBALL REGULATION MODIFICATIONS – 2020 SEASON**

With the elimination of multi-match formats for the 2020 volleyball season, the following modifications have been made to the 2020 Volleyball Sport Regulations. These modifications apply for the 2020 season ONLY. The “previous regulation” is listed for your reference, followed by the modification in place for the 2020 season. A summary of changes is provided as well.

### ***Volleyball Sport Regulation 1-2 (Interscholastic Competition – Grades 9-12)***

**PREVIOUS REGULATION:** *All varsity dual matches shall be played in a best three of five format. Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points) and the deciding set shall go to 15 points with no cap.*

#### **2020 REGULATION MODIFICATION:**

All varsity dual matches shall be played in a best three of five format. Each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points) and the deciding set shall go to 15 points with no cap.

**1.21** If schools are conducting more than one and less than three (*see Volleyball Regulation 1.8 for match per day limitation*) matches per day against a common opponent, varsity dual matches may be played in a best two of three format if agreed upon in advance of the competition in the game contract(s). If there has been no advance contracting to play these matches in best two of three format, then the matches shall be played in a best three of five format.

*Note:* Each match must count towards the 22-match limitation (*Volleyball Regulation 1.9*) for teams and individuals. This includes more than one varsity dual match per day.

*Note:* If conducting only one varsity dual match, it shall be played in a best three of five format.

**1.22** If played in a best two of three format, each set shall go to 25 points with no cap (must win by two points) and the deciding set shall go to 15 points with no cap.

**Summary of changes:** Provides schools that are looking to schedule multiple matches (no more than three) in one day against a common opponent, the opportunity to shorten the duration of the matches. This may only be applied if scheduling more than one dual competition in the same day against the same opponent and must be contracted in advance. This includes informing officials.

### **Volleyball Sport Regulation 1-6 (Interscholastic Competition – Grades 9-12)**

**PREVIOUS REGULATION:** Individual limitations for players who play in any non-varsity competition on the same day and against the same opponent consist of a maximum of five (5) sets per day per common opponent.

**2020 REGULATION MODIFICATION:**

Individual limitations for players who play in any non-varsity competition on the same day and against the same opponent consist of a maximum of five (5) sets per day per individual match.

**Summary of changes:** Eliminates the 5-set limitation per day per common opponent and applies to the individual match. With the possibility of an increase in dual matches on the same day, this allows individuals to not be limited to 5 sets against a common opponent in one day. This increases the opportunity for schools to fill their schedules and aligns with the set limitation for individuals if they were to participate against a different opponent.

### **Volleyball Sport Regulation 1-3 (Interscholastic Competition – Grades 7-8)**

**PREVIOUS REGULATION:** A student may participate in no more than three sets per opponent. Any part of a set is considered a full set. When playing more than one opponent, this rule applies for each opponent.

**2020 REGULATION MODIFICATION:**

A student may participate in no more than three (3) sets per individual match. Any part of a set is considered a full set.

**Summary of changes:** Eliminates the 3-set limitation per day per common opponent and applies to the individual match. With the possibility of an increase in dual matches on the same day, this allows individuals to not be limited to 3 sets against a common opponent in one day. This increases the opportunity for schools to fill their schedules and aligns with the set limitation for individuals if they were to participate against a different opponent.

## **Q & A's**

**Q: Since we are no longer permitted to have multi-team matches, can we schedule a back-to-back dual match against the same opponent?**

**A:** Yes, as teams and individuals are able to participate in a maximum of three (3) matches per day. Please be mindful of taking time between dual matches of cleaning and sanitizing proper equipment and surfaces.

**Q: If we schedule two back-to-back varsity dual matches against the same opponent on the same day, are we able to play them best two of three format?**

**A:** Yes, based on the revised Volleyball Sport Regulation 1.21 listed above, since you plan to schedule more than one dual match against a common opponent, you are permitted to conduct these matches in a best two of three format, *as long as this is contracted in advance*. If it is not contracted in advance, the varsity dual matches shall be a best three of five format.

**Q: If we schedule two back-to-back varsity dual matches against the same opponent on the same day, are our athletes still limited to only 5 sets per common opponent?**

**A:** No—individual set limitations are based on the individual match per common opponent for the 2020 season. For example, if you play the same opponent back to back, previously you would be limited to 5 sets for both matches against the same opponent. For 2020, the 5-set limitation starts over with each match per day. This aligns with our interpretation that if you play against one school at 12:00pm and a different school at 5:00pm, for example, the 5-set limitation starts over with the next opponent.

**Q: We originally scheduled a tri-match against team A and team B to take place on the same day. Is this allowed?**

**A:** Based on the August 19 order, this is not permitted. The order states that the sport of volleyball is limited to one team vs team match per day.

**Q: The order states “shall play against more than a single opponent team in any twenty-four hour period”. Is this hour-by-hour or on a day-by-day basis? For example, we have a match on Friday at 5:00pm and a match on Saturday at 12:00pm—would this be permitted?**

**A:** Based on the August 19 order, this would not be permitted, as it specifically states a 24-hour period. If you schedule a match at 5:00pm on Friday, by our interpretation, a Saturday match would not be able to take place until 5:00pm or later. This would need to be clarified by the Ohio Department of Health if that is not the proper interpretation of the 24-hour protocol.

## **THANK YOU**

We are all trying to digest this information we received so close to these types of events occurring. Understandably, there may be some items we do not fully understand, but this is clarified to the best of our ability. If we are able to get in touch with the Ohio Department of Health with further clarification, we will share any new items. However, this is the current interpretation of the order.

To both coaches and administrators, I truly cannot thank you enough for all that you are doing to provide the opportunity at your schools. Even for those schools that are delaying or currently unable to conduct fall sports, the work you are doing to provide support throughout your community is a thankless job. We know the work (and chaos!) that is going into your job(s) with new and constant information, so thank you for working together.

Sincerely,

*Emily Gates*