



THIS WEEK IN VOLLEYBALL

Issue 2 | August 25, 2023

NFHS RULE 4-2-4 | CONTRASTING NUMBERS

With the implementation of NFHS Rule 4-2-4c regarding the color of the number, we have received several questions and inquiries about if a uniform is compliant or not. NFHS Rule 4-2-4c states the following:

The number shall be:

- c. A plain, Arabic numeral of a solid color, where either the body of the number (measuring not less than ¼ inch in width at its narrowest point) or the surrounding solid color(s) of trim (a contrasting border not to exceed ½ inch in width at its widest point) is a color that is in sharp contrast to the color of the uniform top. A shadow on part of the number not to exceed ½ inch at its widest point is permitted but shall not be used to make the number clearly visible regardless of color. **The body of the number must clearly contrast from the body of the uniform regardless of trim;**

The highlighted section is the new rule that is now in place, starting with the 2023 volleyball season. This has been addressed in the NFHS Volleyball Rules Book since the 2019 publishing and every year after, stating that this rule would be established “Beginning July 1, 2023”.

In summary, the color of the number must clearly contrast from the body of the uniform, regardless of the color of the trim of the number. A quick determination could be dark on dark colors and light on light colors, would not be contrasting enough (much like the required contrast between the color of the team uniform top and the color of the libero uniform top).

Here are a few examples of color combinations, followed by the compliance decision:

COLOR OF #	COLOR OF UNIFORM	COLOR OF TRIM ON #	COMPLIANT OR NON-COMPLIANT?
Black	Black	White	Non-Compliant (dark on dark)
Black	White	Red	Compliant
Navy Blue	Black	White	Non-Compliant (dark on dark)
Yellow/Gold	White	Black	Non-Compliant (light on light)
Dark Purple	White	Black	Compliant
Black	Charcoal	White	Non-Compliant (dark on dark)

NOTE: The ruling of contrast is ultimately a judgement by the official(s) working your match. Please keep in mind that if you have a number color that is somewhat questionable if it is contrasting enough to the body of the uniform, you may have officials that permit it in a match (or several!), but you could run into an official(s) that does not find the colors to be contrasting enough, just like the judgement call between the contrast of the color of the team uniform top from the libero uniform top. Please respect the official’s judgement on their decision, even if it may be different from an official’s judgement in a prior match. *Since this has been address since 2019, our office is not permitted to provide any waivers or exceptions to this NFHS rule.*

Should you have questions on the compliance of your uniform, please do not hesitate to reach out to me (emason@ohsaa.org) and our Volleyball Director of Officiating Development, Jim Hammar (jhammar@ohsaa.org).

Additionally, beginning July 1, 2028, numbers with a leading zero (01, 02, etc.) will not be legal (NFHS Rule 4-2-4b).

VIDEO USE ON TEAM BENCH

The OHSAA (and the NFHS) do not permit coaches to use live video during play/competition for coaching purposes. Any film and/or photographs may only be permitted for use after the match has concluded.

Complete Media Regulations are available starting on page 85 of the OHSAA Handbook [HERE](#). A few highlights of the Media Regulations include, but are not limited to:

- It is permissible for a school to videotape or photograph regular season contests in which the school team is participating, **but such recordings or photographs may not be used for coaching purposes until after the contest is completed.** In other words, it is not possible to use photographs or any recorded information in between sets or during any part of a match.
- It is not permissible for a school or school representative to videotape or photograph previews, scrimmages, regular season OR tournament contests of other schools without the written consent of the schools participating in the contest.

If you see an opposing coach utilizing live video on the bench to assist their team during play/competition, please involve site management to inform them that this is not permitted. If the request is ignored and they continue to utilize video on the team bench, please contact me, Emily Mason, at emason@ohsaa.org.

THANK YOU!

Heat Index & Heat Illness Prevention

While the OHSAA heat illness prevention guidelines and recommendations are thought to be utilized for outdoor sports only, please keep in mind the same guidelines apply to indoor gyms that may not have air conditioning. With high temperatures and heat indexes across the state throughout the weekend, please make sure you review Sports Medicine Regulation 3 ([HERE](#)), which addresses heat illness prevention recommendations.

Final Rules Meeting Deadline

The deadline without penalty for the 2023 Volleyball Rules Meeting was August 19. There is now a \$50 late penalty to view the Volleyball Rules Meeting. The FINAL deadline is October 2 at 11:59pm. Starting on October 3, the Rules Meeting will no longer be available. **The penalty for not completing this requirement is removal from the OHSAA postseason tournament.**



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