



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

THIS WEEK IN VOLLEYBALL | ISSUE 1

AUGUST 1, 2025

TO: OHSAA Volleyball Head Coaches

FR: Emily Mason, Senior Sport Administrator – Volleyball

RE: *This Week in Volleyball – Issue 1*

VOLLEYBALL STATE RULES MEETING

Per *General Sport Regulation 2*, all Head Volleyball Coaches are required to complete the State Rules Meeting. **The Volleyball Online Rules Meeting is now LIVE on FinalForms**—please see the Rules Meeting deadlines below. All rules interpretation meetings for coaches will be conducted online through your FinalForms account.

HOW TO COMPLETE STATE RULES MEETING ONLINE

All coaches will access the State Rules Meeting through their FinalForms account*. Once you have logged in (full directions below) and have accessed the Rules Meeting, please follow the prompts to complete the meeting to receive meeting credit. *Please see all dates and deadlines below.*

**Coaches should contact their Athletic Director if they do not have an account.*

TO ACCESS ONLINE RULES MEETINGS

1. Login to your FinalForms account
2. On the landing page, you should see the sport(s) you have been assigned (i.e., Volleyball)
3. Click on the “Form” icon on the left side of Volleyball (highlighted in red)
4. Click on the “Play” button on the video and watch the entire video
5. **Enter coach name at the bottom and click “Submit”, verifying you have watched the video**
6. Once submitted, the listing of “Volleyball” should turn green, as indication that credit has been received

DATES & DEADLINES

The deadline for completion of Rules Meeting is **Saturday, August 16 at 11:59 PM** or a \$50.00 late fee is charged for missing the first deadline. **The final deadline is Monday, September 22 at 11:59 PM.** Beginning on Tuesday, September 23 at 12:00 AM, the Volleyball Rules Meeting is no longer available and the penalty shall apply.

The penalty for not viewing the Volleyball Rules Meeting by September 22 at 11:59 PM is **REMOVAL FROM THE POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT.**

OHSAA VOLLEYBALL REGULATION CHANGES

The following OHSAA Volleyball Regulations were proposed by the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association (OHSVCA) and approved at the June Board of Directors Meeting. Please thank your OHSVCA District Representatives for their hard work in ensuring the sport of volleyball in the state of Ohio continues to grow!

If you are not currently part of the OHSVCA but would like to be, please visit their website at www.ohsvca.org to learn more.

VOLLEYBALL REGULATION 3 (GRADES 7 & 8)

Previously, *Volleyball Regulation 3 (Grades 7 & 8)* stated that “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.”. *Volleyball Regulation 3 (Grades 7 & 8)* now states, “A student may participate in no more than **four (4)** 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.”

RATIONALE: This change from a maximum of 3 sets per common opponent, to **now permitting four (4) sets per common opponent [at the 7-8 grade level]**, was made to allow players that swing between both the 7th and 8th grade matches, to be permitted one more set per common opponent. Previously, if the 7th grade match went to 3 sets, and an athlete participated in all 3 sets, that athlete would not be permitted to participate in the 8th grade match.

VOLLEYBALL REGULATION 1 NOTE (GRADES 9-12) & 2 NOTE (GRADES 7 & 8) / NOT IN EFFECT UNTIL THE 2026-27 SEASON

Currently, the OHSAA Volleyball Regulations do not permit the use of the libero in grades 7 & 8—the use of the libero is only permitted in grades 9-12. **Starting with the 2026 volleyball season (next year)**, the use of the libero will be permitted in grades 7 & 8—so the libero will be permitted in grades 7-12, **starting no earlier than August 2026.**

Please keep in mind that while the use of the libero will be permitted in grades 7 & 8 starting August 2026, it is not required for a 7th or 8th grade team to use the libero if they do not wish to do so.

RATIONALE: Introducing the libero role in grades 7 & 8, should allow for athletes to transition to the libero position at the high school level smoothly, making them comfortable with the rules, rotations and responsibilities associated with the position in grades 7 & 8. Utilizing the libero in grades 7 & 8 may also increase the opportunities for player development, enhance team dynamics and competitiveness and allow coaches more flexibility in player rotations.

NFHS VOLLEYBALL RULE CHANGES

The 2025-26 NFHS Volleyball Rule Changes are covered in greater detail in the 2025 Volleyball Rules Meeting. Please see below for a quick summary of changes. **NOTE:** the changes are highlighted in gray, followed by the explained rationale.

3-2-1 NOTE (NEW): NOTE: Beginning in 2026-27, by state association adoption, the volleyball may be spherical with a laceless molded cover of genuine, simulated textured leather (not suede) panels. No limitation on color combinations or number and shape of panels. All measurements and weight requirements still apply.

RATIONALE: Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball for either boys or girls volleyball.

NOTE: The OHSAA will permit the use of the **textured** volleyball for Boys Volleyball ONLY, and **NOT for Girls Volleyball**.

4-2-1 h(3), 4-2-1i(2):

Uniform top:

1. Bare-midriff tops are not allowed.
2. The uniform top shall hang below or be tucked into the waistband of the uniform bottom when the player is standing upright.
3. Any visible garment (t-shirt, body suits and other similar garments) worn underneath the uniform top shall be unadorned and of a single, solid color that is similar in color to the predominant color of the uniform top or be solid black, white or gray. All team members, other than the libero, must wear the same color undershirt.

Like-colored uniform bottom:

1. Multiple styles of uniform bottoms may be worn by teammates and may include: shorts, spandex, pants or skirts.
2. A visible undergarment may be worn under the uniform bottom. It shall be unadorned and of a single, solid color similar to the predominant color of the uniform bottom or be solid black, white or gray and may extend below the uniform bottom. All team members must wear the same color undergarment.

RATIONALE: Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform top/bottom under the uniform top and/or bottom. All team members, other than the libero, wearing an undergarment must wear the same color.

4-2-4d, f:

The number shall be:

- d. Located on the upper front and back of the uniform top. Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top and the requirements in item f. will be eliminated.

RATIONALE: Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline creating consistency in number placement.

5-3-2b, 5-5-3b(9):

Referees equipment shall include:

- a. For the first referee, a whistle, a set of yellow and red cards, a coin and a watch;
- b. For the second referee, a whistle, lineup "card" (optional), a pen/pencil, a set of yellow and red cards, a coin and a watch.

RATIONALE: Eliminates the requirement for the second referee to carry and use a lineup card to check the starting lineups allowing veteran officials to use each coach's submitted lineup sheet to check the starting lineup while allowing the use of the lineup card as a training tool for newer officials to assist with tracking rotations during the match.

9-4-8c (NEW): Multiple contacts are more than one contact by a player during one attempt to play the ball. Multiple contacts are permitted only:

- a. When the first ball over the net rebounds from one part of the player's body to one or more other parts in one attempt to block;
- b. On any first team hit, whether or not the ball is touched by the block;
- c. On the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

RATIONALE: Eliminates the judgement call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

10-4 PENALTIES 1: Unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card for the first offense of administrative red card for subsequent offense in that set) is charged to the offending team when an illegal libero replacement takes place prior to the contact for serve. If identified after contact for serve, illegal alignment results (loss of rally/point). In all cases, the illegal libero shall enter legally or be replaced by a legal player.

RATIONALE: Changes the penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement to an unnecessary delay if identified before contact of serve and an illegal alignment if identified after contact of serve.

Thank you!

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