

Preface

By contractual agreement, the New York State Certified Volleyball Officials' Association (NYSCVOA) provides officiating services to member schools of New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA). This agreement denotes the conditions of service NYSCVOA shall provide to volleyball programs across New York State.

Annual deliberations of one NYSPHSAA committee comprised of volleyball sectional representatives from both the Boys and Girls Divisions directly impact the rules that NYSCVOA member officials must enforce. Compilations of suggested "best practice" from these discussions are known as the *New York State Rule Modifications*. These modifications may differ slightly from the NCAA rules, yet are of equal importance and must be implemented consistently throughout the state.



This handbook was developed in part to act as a quick reference to the *New York State Rule Modifications* approved by NYSPHSAA. The information contained herein is to be upheld and properly enforced during all NYSPHSAA interscholastic volleyball competitions.

This handbook also contains match procedures and officiating techniques that have been adopted by the interpretation and exam committees of NYSCVOA. These NYSPHSAA approved practices are to be consistently followed by every NYSCVOA official as all NYSPHSAA member schools are aware of and expect officials to conduct interscholastic volleyball contests according to these procedures.



Any official requesting a NYS rule modification interpretation or a NCAA rule clarification may contact the NYSCVOA rules interpreter via the NYSCVOA.org website. Please refrain from contacting the NCAA secretary-rules editor directly as there may be a different interpretation for public high school play.

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NYSCVOA Officiating Equipment

UNIFORM

Required items for any assigned NYSPHSAA contest

Approved NYSCVOA shirt

Navy dress slacks

White socks

White sneakers

Optional items

A black or navy belt

NYSCVOA approved wind jacket and

NYSCVOA approved sweater

Shorts worn per NYSCVOA Constitution and By-Laws

(Check local board policy as shorts may not be permissible)

For post-season play it is important for the officials' uniforms to match.

The first referee and second referee should match.

The 2 or 4 lines judges should match.

NYSCVOA officials should have the following courtside:

- a device to measure the net height
- a device to check the ball pressure with the ability to modify the pressure if necessary
- a watch or time piece
- red and yellow penalty cards
- a flipping coin or something similar
- a blue, black or white whistle on a blue, black or white lanyard
- flags for the lines judges (optional)
- line up forms and NYSCVOA score sheets and Libero Tracking sheets (optional)

NYSCVOA officials should refrain from wearing excessive jewelry.

Professional Protocol

Prior to the start of any NYSPHSAA Volleyball contest locate the site supervisor or event manager.

- ✓ Upon arrival to the host site, introduce yourself to the home coach and obtain any additional information necessary to conduct the match (e.g. national anthem, senior night, playing all three JV sets, etc...)
- ✓ After the team representatives' meeting, introduce yourself to the coach of the visiting team and relay all pertinent information received from the host coach and include the results of the coin toss.

Avoid touching an athlete at any time during all pre-match and set procedures.

Limit court side discussions with spectators, coaches and athletes.

Never address a spectator during or after a match.

The first referee (R1) will remain on the stand for the duration of the match. Refer to NCAA rule book for unusual situations when the R1 may vacate the stand.

Refrain from commenting on any social network site(s) that could potentially result in harm or the perception of bias.

When possible, officials should arrive and leave the playing site together. NYSCVOA officials should not participate in post-match discussion with coaches, spectators or team personnel.

Prompt departure from the court area is strongly encouraged.

The procedure (below) is strongly recommended for all contests as it requires the officials to remain together after completion of the match and until they leave the playing area.

- ✓ The R1 will exit the ladder to the right once the signal has been given for the teams to meet at the net and shake hands.
- ✓ The R1 will proceed to the center of the end line (on their right).
- ✓ The second referee (R2) will proceed to the same area as the R1, exiting to their left side of the court.
- ✓ The line judge on the R1's side of the court will join the R2 and R1 at the end line, the line judge on the R2's side of court will meet the other three officials at the score table and all will exit the playing area together.
- ✓ The exit strategy (gathering belongings, etc...) needs to be discussed amongst all the officials prior to the start of the contest.

The NYSPHSAA State Tournament uses this end of match protocol for all championship matches.

Ball Handling Guidelines

- Consistency is paramount. When a decision is made and a ball handling error whistled, the official should have the ability to whistle that same contact for the duration of the contest.
- Successive or multiple contacts are legal during blocking or during the team's first contact. A carry, throw or prolonged contact is a fault.
- Judge the point of contact only. Do not take in to account the player's body position or "athletic ability" when judging ball handling.
- Do not base ball handling decisions on the spin of the ball, spectator or participant reaction.
- Exigent or great plays should be judged less severely. Blatant faults should always be whistled.
- A poor ball handling decision (e.g., taking the ball with hands instead of passing it with forearms) doesn't necessarily equal a spectacular or great play.

NYSPHSAA Handbook and Committee Rulings

No High School student (or younger) is allowed to wear jewelry while on the playing surface. Sneakers will be worn by line judges and any participant that is on the playing surface.

The pre-match protocol will start with the team representatives meeting for ground rules and coin toss. The clock for the warm-up period will not begin until the team representatives are released. Shared court time is first, followed by the visiting team exclusive court time use and then the home team. The clock should run continuously stopping only for injury, safety issues, or equipment failure.

A letter from a medical doctor is necessary for equipment that is worn by a participant not covered by the rule book. Check local section policy.

The sportsmanship card will be read the first time an official works a school's contest. The sportsmanship card will be read at all post-season matches.

New York State Modifications to the NCAA Rules

Rule 1 Facilities and Equipment

Attack line extensions are not required to play a match.

Rule 2 The Net and Related Equipment

The net height for all NYSPHSAA interscholastic men's competition will be 7 feet 11 5/8 inches

Rule 6 Individual and Team Sanctions

Check local section policy for sanction guidelines. If no such policy exists, the NCAA rule is in effect. (Exception: delay sanction for illegal player equipment)

- ✓ Many officials are unsure when to sanction a coach, athlete or other match participant. One recommendation is if the person is distracting the attention of an official away from match duties, it is time for a sanction.

NYSVCOA officials may not remove an expelled or disqualified team member from the playing or spectator areas. Sanctions will be assessed to the head coach for any further disruptions caused by an expelled or disqualified player.

Rule 7 Players' Equipment

An individual may have a different number when changing from a team uniform shirt to a Libero shirt. A Libero shirt may not be passed among teammates. Duplicate numbers are not permitted.

Jewelry is not permitted at any time including the warm-up period. This includes "non-visible" jewelry (i.e. tongue studs). Hair ties worn on the wrist and string bracelets are considered jewelry. Taping jewelry is not permitted at any time.

- ✓ A player wearing visible jewelry should be asked politely to remove it. Prompt removal of jewelry is required.
- ✓ A player with taped (alleged) jewelry should be questioned in the presence of the head coach.
- ✓ A player on the court with jewelry will result in a **team delay sanction**. Prompt removal of jewelry is required.

The only type barrette that is legal is a "flexible" barrette.

The procedure to resolve all illegal uniform issues will be:

- ✓ Notify the coach of the team at fault to determine whether the uniform can be brought into compliance. The team will legalize the uniform of the team member.
- ✓ If the uniform can not be legalized, discuss with the opposing coach to determine whether a protest will be filed.
- ✓ If no protest is filed at the time of the discussion, no future protest will be accepted in regards to uniform compliance.
- ✓ If the coach wishes to protest, record the events per the rule book. Play the match and notify the proper channels regarding the protest. Check local board policy.

The Libero uniform is exempt from this modification.

Rule 8 Scoring and Duration of Matches

All sets of the match are 25 point sets. A team must win by two and no cap is in effect for any set.

Rule 9 Protocols

The team that does not have exclusive use of the court will be allowed to warm-up as long as they remain 2 meters away from the court boundaries and they do not interfere with the team that has exclusive use of the court.

Teams will switch sides when one team reaches 13 points in the deciding set.

Rule 11 Game Interruptions

The length of all timeouts in a match will be 60 seconds.

The number of team substitutions will be 18. The procedure for authorizing a substitute onto the court is as follows:

- ✓ After whistling and signaling for a substitution the second referee will step back towards the score table in such a manner as to allow the scorekeeper to visualize the players entering and leaving the court. The second referee should remain square to the court during this procedure.
- ✓ The second referee will relay the numbers to the scorekeeper, stating the player's number entering the court first followed by the player leaving.
- ✓ After using the authorization for entry signal, the second referee will ensure the scorekeeper is ready to resume play, scan both benches for additional requests, assume the base position for the next rally and then release the court (using the appropriate hand signal) back to the first referee.
- ✓ The first referee will mimic the second referee's substitution signal, no whistle by the first referee is necessary.

Rule 15 Play at the Net

The center line rule for all NYSPHSAA Men's interscholastic competition is as follows:

To touch the opponent's court with a foot (feet) or Hand(s) is permitted, provided that some part of the penetrating foot (feet) or hand(s) remains either in contact with or directly above the center line.

To contact the opponent's court with any other part of the body is forbidden.

A player may enter the opponent's court after the ball goes out of play.

The above rule is for Men's play only, the Women play by the current NCAA rule.

Rule 18 Officials and Their Duties

Officials should arrive 30 minutes before the start of the match for regular season play. Officials are requested to arrive 40 minutes before match time for post-season play. Check local board or section policy.

- ✓ The referees should monitor warm-up activities court side near the score table.
- ✓ The referees will monitor player safety and ensure proper protocol is being followed.
- ✓ Discuss ball handling parameters, sanction requests and any other potential match situations.
- ✓ Know the setters and primary passers for the teams involved and discuss with partner possible violations in rotation order (overlaps).
- ✓ Locate the site supervisor for potential issues.
- ✓ Discuss exit strategy for when the match is completed.
- ✓ Introduce your self to the score table crew and lines judges and instruct them accordingly, using concrete examples of various set situations.

The second referee (R2) will use the lineup sheets submitted by the team to verify players' positions on the court and verify the players' numbers are correctly recorded on the score sheet. A Libero replacement can not be made until the starting players are verified.

- ✓ The R2 will read the numbers of the players on the court to the scorekeeper while standing near the score table.
- ✓ The scorekeeper will read the numbers of the players on the score sheet to the R2 while standing near the score table.

The line up sheets once submitted and recorded are to remain at the score table for the duration of each set.

The R2 will use the “ready signal” to begin the set and after any Game Interruptions (time out, substitution). It may also be used after scorekeeper issues or for prolonged delays.

- ✓ The ready signal is performed with the hand furthest from the net, palm perpendicular to the floor with tucked thumb arm raised to shoulder height pointing toward R-1.
- ✓ The ready signal is not to be used after every rally.

The head coach will be notified when the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th Team substitutions are taken.

- ✓ The second referee will indicate number of team substitutions used to the coach by using proper hand signals as stated in the NCAA rule book.
- ✓ The second referee will relay the same information to the first referee.
- ✓ The second referee will release the court by using the “ready signal” after scanning the benches and getting in base position for the next rally: On the defensive side with shoulder and body square to the court.

The Assistant Scorekeeper (Libero Tracker) will use the NYSCVOA Libero Tracking Sheet for monitoring all substitutions, Libero replacements and team substitutions. The tracker will assist the scorekeeper as necessary.

Referees can make corrections to the score sheet/score when the first or second referee is able to reconstruct the events that took place that resulted in the score keeper’s error.

A protest must be requested by a coach or captain if the first or second referee is to use any other match information from statisticians, visiting score book, coaches, etc., (Rule 17.2.2.5) in regards to correcting any errors to the score sheet/score.