

C.I.F – SS/SCVOA Instructional Clarifications 2010  
Protocols, Procedures and Rule Interpretations Emphasis

This document will attempt to be organized in chronological order from the time an official arrives at their match site. Anything not mentioned in this document shall be conducted and/or applied as described within the NFHS rulebook/casebook.

**Pre –game:**

- If there is more than 1 official scheduled to work a Varsity match then BOTH officials must be courtside prior to the captains/coaches meeting. This particularly applies to the frosh/JV split prior to a Varsity match. This may not be altered regardless of any official's or coaches wishes. This includes the warm up clock. The 20 minute warm up time may not be started until both assigned officials are courtside.
- In the event that an official is going to be later than the official Varsity match start time. That official must make every attempt to notify their partner, playing site and assigner immediately. That match shall not be started prior to the arrival of BOTH assigned officials. The coaches MAY NOT agree to allow the single official to begin a Varsity match.
- If an official is not able to attend their assigned match they are required to notify their partner, the school site and their assigner immediately. The single remaining official must receive the approval of their assigner, their Unit President, or their Unit instructor before working that match individually. Each Unit of SCVOA may modify who must be contacted per their own Unit structure and needs.
- **There must be an assistant scorekeeper/libero tracker on every match regardless of level.** It is sole responsibility of the home school to provide the scorekeeper and assistant scorekeeper for each match. The assigning of lines people shall be conducted by following each leagues guidelines. If either coach is unaware of any established guidelines then both schools shall provide a lines person for the match.
- The 20 minute warm up time includes the final 3 minute "dead time" prior to the beginning of the match. This is important because the rosters are due from each team 10 minutes prior to the end of the 20 minutes. Also, the starting lineups are due 2 minutes from the end of the 20 minute warm up time.
- At no time is a player allowed to remove any piece of clothing that would expose any part of their body normally covered by their playing uniform while within the visual confines of the playing area, regardless of the intent of this action, including changing into or out of their uniform. If this action occurs that player shall be automatically sanctioned with a yellow card.
- Coaches must be wearing appropriate athletic footwear when actively warming up with their teams. Sandals, heels, bare feet, etc. are not appropriate footwear if that coach is actively warming up their teams. Active warm-ups do not include tossing a ball but does include hitting, serving or passing drills in which the coach is performing these actions. Error to the side of safety not to the comfort level or cultural level of the coaches/schools/geographic area in which the match is taking place.
- When checking the lineup of each team the R2 will begin by standing on one team's sideline. Once that team's lineup has been verified the R2 will then proceed to the other team's sideline to verify their lineup. At no time should the R2 enter the court to verify a team's lineup. The game ball shall remain at the score table until both lineups have been verified.

- It is absolutely vital that all padding and safety concerns are addressed prior to WARM UPS! Our liability begins from the time we arrive within the visual confines of the playing area. If a playing area cannot be made legal then that match **MUST NOT** be held and reported to your Unit assigner and Unit President. Also, the CIF Southern Section Representative as designated by SCVOA must be notified immediately.

### During play:

- The proper signal for a ball crossing the center line is signal 2 (line violation)
- Signals 20(illegal substitution) and 22(unnecessary delay) from the rulebook are not to be utilized at this time.
- In the case of a delay of game assessment the following procedure shall be followed:
  - a. Blow your whistle
  - b. Stop any action or match interruptions from occurring
  - c. Use signal 21a (timeout) indicating the team receiving the delay of game sanction.
  - d. Notify the coach/captain that their team is being assessed a delay of game sanction and the reason for that sanction.
  - e. If that team does not have a time out remaining then indicate a point/loss of rally to the other team.
- When calling a net fault or a center line violation against a player the following procedure shall be followed:
  - a. Blow your whistle
  - b. Signal the fault being called
  - c. Signal the uniform number of the player committing the fault
    1. Numbers 1-9: show appropriate fingers. Number 10: Show closed fist of one hand. Numbers 11-19: Combine above signals. Numbers 20 and above: Show first digit with right or both hands, then second digit with left or both hands.
  - d. The signal point for the opposing team.  
(Please note that this procedure must be followed EVERY TIME a player commits a center line violation or a net fault.)

This may be repeated informally to the coach if that information is requested by turning and facing the coach and either showing the number on your hands or verbally communicating the number. This is not a time for the coach to argue the call and should not result in a conversation/delay.

- When the R2 is requesting a card from the R1 they should step to the sideline of the court on the side of the team/player/coach to be sanctioned and verbally or with a discrete signal as established during the official's pre-game meeting, request the specific level of sanction as well as the player/coach to receive this sanction. At no time should the R2 show a card to either the R1 or to the coach/player. This should be covered in detail during the officials own pre-game conference.
- Sanctions are allowed to be given from the time an official enters the playing area prior to the beginning of a match until the official leaves the visual confines of the playing area after the end of a match. If the match has ended the player/coach may only be sanctioned with a disqualification. This does not require the official to input any further information on the match score sheet. Instead the proper paperwork must be completed by that official and sent to the area liaison, the Unit President, the Unit Instructor and the Unit Assigner immediately.

If any behavior occurs outside the visual confines of the match then it is the responsibility of the individual official to contact the appropriate law enforcement agency by calling 911.

- While the head coach is allowed to stand during play. Head coaches are **not to be allowed** to enter the substitution zone at any time. The first offense should receive a verbal warning. After that the official should assess a yellow card and progress up the sanction levels as needed. This must be vigorously enforced.
- If a head coach receives either a yellow and/or red card during the match the head coach loses the right to stand except as designated under Rule 12.2.6. A-C and Rule 12.2.5. If the head coach receives a yellow/red disqualification and there is a remaining assistant coach, then this coach must remain seated except as allowed by rule. Also note that if the assistant or any player on the bench receives a yellow and/or red card the Head Coach must remain seated as mentioned above. This must be vigorously enforced.
- Officials need to enforce the rule that ONLY head coaches are allowed to stand during play. Officials must also understand and enforce the circumstances as to when an assistant coach may stand and what kinds of information an assistant coach may legally request from the R2. At no time should an assistant coach be allowed to shout across the court or engage with the other members of the officiating crew without receiving a verbal warning or a card.
- The officials need to pay attention to players standing in the warm-up zone. This is allowed for only a short time and should not be allowed to continue if the player is not actively warming up and if the player is not going to enter the game within a reasonable amount of time (no more than 2 rotations).
- Use of a lineup card for either the R1 or R2 is no longer appropriate/necessary.
- The training of and use of preventative officiating is mandatory for all officials. Consult Page 49-50 of the casebook.

## **Ball Handling Rule vs. Philosophy**

In the points of emphasis on Pages 45-46 of the rule book it states that:

*“A legal contact is a touch of the ball by any part of a player’s body which does not allow the ball to visibly come to rest or involve prolonged contact. The only VALID criterion for judging illegal hits is vision. If you did not see it, it did not happen. Referees should look ahead of the ball and watch the ball contacted by the hands to ensure accurate ball-handling decisions. Prolonged contact is a call that NFHS rules require to be enforced. Any ball that comes to rest on a player should be whistled a violation. A ball rolling up the arms or a player over-running a pass **may** result in prolonged contact. Officials should pay special attention to the setters during warm-ups in an effort to become familiar with the styles of setting to be displayed during the match. Spin, sound, speed, body position or technique(s) are not criteria to determine illegal handling of the ball. Officials should strive to be consistent when making ball-handling calls. A player may not throw the ball. \* ~~If the body is divided into quadrants, bisecting the head at the ears/nose, a player may not carry the ball from the initial contact quadrant to the release in a different quadrant.~~”*

The current philosophy making its way throughout the sport of volleyball is one of “lessening of severity” of an official’s ball-handling decisions. This philosophical change has been going on for a couple years now and is reflected in the current ball handling directives for FIVB, USAV and NCAA/PAVO. While these other directives allow for a multiple contact to not be called and provides criteria and situations for these “no calls”, the NFHS has made is simple. Don’t make ball handling calls if you don’t see it. It has been decided to ask each official to lessen the severity of their calls as well. Obviously, the gross and egregious non-simultaneous multiple contacts need to be whistled immediately. But if an official is unsure if they saw a multiple contact then they should error to the side of allowing play to continue.

It seems that some officials are not willing to acknowledge this change in the game. While it is completely understandable to resist change it is no longer acceptable to refuse to adapt to any of the changes being introduced to the sport. Officials need to stop making automatic calls. Using spin, technique or crowd/coach/player reactions to determine legality is entirely inappropriate. It is also extremely important to maintain an even, consistent level of ball-handling throughout a match. If you wouldn’t call it at the first point of the first set then you should not call it at match point of the deciding set.

The philosophies that are being introduced are meant to increase the length of rallies and to allow the spectators to view these increasingly athletic players to fully display their abilities. Increasingly, the sport of volleyball is becoming viewer friendly and it is generally agreed at the highest levels that viewers do not pay to see or hear the officials remaining as involved in the course of the game as they have been in the past.

## **Libero Uniform Enforcement**

In the points of emphasis on Page 46 of the rule book it states that:

*“The libero must wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team. When ordering libero tops, coaches should consider the following: hue (color), value (lightness or darkness of a color), and saturation (intensity or purity of a color). Attention should be given to the color of the regular uniform as well as the libero jersey. Similar dark colors such as maroon and black or light colors such as gray and peach should not be used together. The number is equally important when ordering libero tops. It must be clearly visible and in contrast to the predominant color of the uniform top.”*

The implementation of the Libero in the High School level is a relatively new development. Enforcement of the legality or illegality of the libero uniform remains a topic of conversation throughout the country. The above quoted NFHS Point of Emphasis contains this statement “The libero must wear a uniform top that is **immediately** recognized from all angles as being in **CLEAR** contrast to and **DISTINCT** from the other members of the team.”

This does not mean that only the officials must be able to clearly, and immediately be able to distinguish who the libero is during play but that there is an implied understanding that this must apply to the vast majority of the players, coaches, official and spectators in attendance. This also means that the libero must be clearly and immediately distinguishable not only standing around during a dead ball but also in the blur of play as well as during libero replacements. For an R1 to say, “I can see it and I don’t care about the remainder of the individuals involved in the match”, is to lose the spirit of the rule as well as the practical reasoning for the letter of the rule.

**Both** the R1 and R2 need to be able to immediately identify the libero so as to be able to immediately ascertain their location and the nature of their contact with the ball. An illegal libero uniform makes this task tedious or impossible and can cause that official to lose track of the progress of play by having to focus on finding the libero. This can cause the R2 to be unable to assist with information for the R1 during play and could also cause the R2 to not be able to accurately manage the libero replacements.

The assistant scorekeeper (libero tracker) is absolutely reliant on this visual information when performing their duties. As we all know, it is hard enough keeping our junior officiating crew focused without causing them further strain of having to “search” for the libero. This can also be applied to some of our well intentioned but inexperienced adult officiating crew.

The opposing team deserves to be able to quickly determine the location of the libero in several respects, particularly in serve receive. This can also affect their offensive tactics and execution.

**Finally, it should be understood that with the rapid adoption of new rules, mechanics, protocols, and philosophies within the sport of volleyball there is a requirement for all officials to quickly adapt to the new environment regardless of their personal feelings as to the “direction” the sport is taking. An official’s failure to be willing to adapt can and should negatively impact that official’s individual level of certification and the level/amount of matches they are assigned.**