

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



NEWS RELEASE

Volleyball Rules Changes Announced

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Becky Oakes

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 28, 2008) — Three revisions related to officials are among changes in high school volleyball rules approved by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Volleyball Rules Committee at its January 6–8 meeting in Indianapolis. The changes subsequently were approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

In an effort to reflect current terminology, all references to referee and umpire in the NFHS Volleyball Rules Book will be changed to first referee and second referee, respectively.

“The other major rules codes – the NCAA and USA Volleyball – use this terminology, and officials refer to themselves in this manner as well,” said Becky Oakes, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the Volleyball Rules Committee.

In a similar type of “name” change, the position of “assistant scorer” will now be referred to as “libero tracker.” Since the duty of this individual is to track libero replacements and substitutions, the committee determined that this change more easily identifies the position and its responsibilities.

Although the use of flags by line judges is not required in high school volleyball and has been optional, the committee revised Rule 5-8-4 to allow the use of flags on a state association-adoption basis.

“The opportunity to use flags continues,” Oakes, “but the use of flags will be determined by the various state high school associations rather than on an individual basis.”

A final change in Rule 1-6-2 will allow a team to have more than one captain at the pre-match conference. Previously this conference was conducted with only the head coach and one captain from each team.

“Since many teams have co-captains, the committee believed this change was needed to more accurately reflect what many states already permit,” Oakes said.

As it does each year, the Volleyball Rules Committee adopted several points of emphasis for the upcoming season. The six topics identified this year were risk minimization during warm-ups, illegal libero replacement penalties, officials signals and mechanics, fan behavior and respect for the game, communicable disease and skin protection procedures, and libero uniform in contrasting color to teammates’ uniforms.

Oakes noted that risk minimization and fan behavior will be particularly stressed.

“During a team warm-up period, all personnel actively conducting the activities should be properly attired for the duties required,” Oakes said.

“Any type of cheering, yelling or other action that is done in a manner to disconcert, be derogatory or taunting toward the opposing team or a specific player, is considered inappropriate. Cheering and other support should always be positive. Inappropriate behavior, if not addressed, allows a loss of respect for the game and players.”

Volleyball is the third-most popular sport for girls at the high school level, according to the 2006-07 NFHS Athletics Participation Survey, with 405,832 participants nationwide. The sport ranks fourth in school sponsorship with 14,881 schools sponsoring the sport. In addition, 46,224 boys participate in volleyball at 2,006 schools.

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About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 18,500 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Bruce Howard or John Gillis, 317-972-6900
National Federation of State High School Associations
PO Box 690, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
bhoward@nfhs.org or jgillis@nfhs.org