

This Week in Volleyball



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The Ohio High School Athletic Association

- **SPORTING CONDUCT EMPHASIZED AND EXPECTED IN INTERSCHOLASTIC VOLLEYBALL**

One of the hallmarks of education-based athletics is the expectation that all who participate will treat each other with respect and will observe all rules related to sporting conduct. Please remember that when people involved in education-based sports treat each other badly, disrupt games, or generally behave in a manner unworthy of the game itself, they are devaluing what you, and all of us, care so much about. Therefore, a friendly reminder about this issue is appropriate as we approach our tournament series. NFHS rule 12 discusses "Conduct" in interscholastic volleyball. 12-2-1 reminds all participants that they shall not act in an unsporting manner while on or near the court (this includes while on the bench) before, during or between sets. 12-2-7 reminds non-playing team members that they are to remain seated on the bench during a set with a few exceptions. It is unsporting conduct for anyone on the bench to direct disconcerting comments to an opponent who is about to play the ball. Such comments are totally unnecessary and shall be desisted immediately by contest officials. Coaches, please remind your players of the high expectations we have for their behavior as a privileged participant in interscholastic volleyball.

- **LIBERO UNIFORM**

Some of you may recall that when Ohio first used the libero, we did so under experimental rules. To assist schools in choosing a uniform that would be clearly discernable as different from the other players' uniforms, we advised using a solid color of either white or the opposite dark color just like we use in the sport of basketball to designate the home and away jerseys. That distinction worked well for us until the rule became codified within the NFHS system. Now it appears that there are problems with libero jerseys that comply with the 25% provision but do not comply with the stipulation that "... immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast and distinct from other members of the team." Coaches, if an official or officials have questioned your libero jersey or have indicated difficulty in recognizing the jersey as clearly contrasting with the other jerseys, then you need to make a change. We will continue to seek guidance from NFHS in order to make the uniform purchase decision easier for schools.

- **REMINDER TO SCHOOLS AND HOST MANAGEMENT**

Please remember that it is the host school's responsibility to provide trained table personnel, including the scorer, libero tracker and timer, and line judges who are either adults or students who are not on any of that school's volleyball squads. Officials need to remind host management of this obligation. If these personnel are not being provided or if their training has been substandard, officials should report problems to the OHSAA.

- **OFFICIALS NEED TO BE CONSISTENT**

Please monitor warm-ups to insure that players are not wearing jewelry and that other non-playing participants are attired in appropriate shoes (no flip flops or other type of footwear that would be dangerous) and are not using cell phones or portable music devices. These rules will be in full force for all OHSAA tournaments, and it is unfair to students and coaches if the rules are not enforced all season long.

- **SCREENING**

Officials should watch for formations that may indicate screening as it appears that more teams are incorporating screening techniques as part of defensive strategy. Screening is illegal by rule and officials need to watch for relative positions taken by serving team members, the path of the served ball as well as the speed and trajectory of the serve. If screening is observed, the first referee must make this call.

- **SECOND REFEREE ISSUES**

Some of these issues have been identified for additional attention in the training and development of the R2 – partnering with the R1, informal signals, no transition (wrong side of net to officiate and signal), poor or wrong signals, over use of line-up card, slow on substitution process, checking and signing the book after a match.

- **SEEDING AND DRAWING DATE**

Note that the OHSAA Tournament Seeding and Draw meeting date is Sunday, October 10. Good luck to all schools!