

# This Week in Volleyball



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The Ohio High School Athletic Association

- **Phenom- The Magazine for Volleyball Players** – The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) is making available to all volleyball players, an online magazine entitled “Phenom” which can be accessed at [www.phenom.avca.org/summer\\_2011](http://www.phenom.avca.org/summer_2011). Coaches are encouraged to alert all players to this complimentary resource with a focus on the interscholastic player.
- **7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade matches** – We have received several questions concerning middle school level volleyball as we begin the season. First, it is not permissible to play three set matches if a winner has been determined in two sets. Playing a third sets when a winner has been determined is a serious violation of the volleyball playing rules and the contest limitations adopted by the OHSAA Board of Directors. Second, even though some schools may choose to play middle school matches on the same day as high school matches, the net height of 7 feet must be used when the 7-8<sup>th</sup> grade teams are competing. Officials and coaches should insure that these standards are observed. Third, “one post season tournament not to exceed four matches” applies to each 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team and each player. It is impermissible for a player to participate in any part of a 7<sup>th</sup> grade post season tournament in addition to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade post season tournament. One post season tournament means just that – ONE.
- **Warm-ups** – We continue to receive questions about appropriate warm-up times for volleyball squads. While the recommended (and tournament mandated) protocol is a 20 minute warm-up, schools may choose to shorten this time to 15 minutes if deemed appropriate. We do not consider it prudent to reduce the warm-up time below 15 minutes. Of a team arrives late, the host management must decide whether to permit the match to be conducted. If conducted, the appropriate warm-up shall be afforded the visiting team.
- **Students who need to wear medical appliances or special headwear** – Please note that students who must wear medical devices or special headwear for either medical or religious reasons must have a letter of authorization issued by the OHSAA. Please include the doctor’s authorization if the special request deals with a medical issue.
- **Volleyball Tournament Draw** – The OHSAA Regional and State Tournament draw is scheduled to be completed on September 8 at the next meeting of the Board of Directors. Watch the volleyball page at <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/vb/girls/default.asp> for this information.
- **Contracts on *MyOHSAA*** - Coaches please remind your athletic administrators that officiating fees for volleyball matches should be a part of the online contract. We have been advised by some officials that the fee has not been included on the contract. We are also encouraging schools to post their contracts as quickly as they can after assigning matches. This will assist in securing those officials for those matches. It is our understanding that “double headers” can now be contracted which will help our officials who are working those matches. Please contact staff member Brenda Murray or Assistant Commissioner Henry Zaborniak or any member of the officiating staff for specific questions about ***MyOHSAA*** as it applies to officiating and contracts.
- **Hair Control Devices and other Adornments** – The OHSAA follows all NFHS rules including those addressing hair control devices and adornments. Although some state associations have chosen to be more restrictive regarding what can be worn in the hair, the OHSAA has not taken this position. Thus, as long as the device is soft and is not going to come off on the floor, the device should be legal. We have had a question about feathers which now appear to be quite the rage. As long as the hair adornment is securing fastening and does not pose a threat to anyone, it would be deemed legal. Coaches are urged to use their discretion and good sense in deciding what to permit players to wear in their hair.