

ONLINE RULES MEETINGS

Don't Forget – The Complimentary Online Rules Meeting Is Available until August 30!

Available through the link on the Volleyball Page here: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/vb/girls/default.asp>

This meeting link will remain open through September 13 for a \$50.00 fee payable via credit card.

PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION

OHSAA Sports Regulations DO permit players to receive INDIVIDUAL instruction during the season of play but only with your approval. We caution coaches on this, however. It does NOT give the permission for players to participate in workouts (disguised as "instruction") with their club/travel/non-interscholastic teams. Generally, if the individual is paying for instruction it probably meets the permission.

WHO TO CONTACT?

Questions about VB rules? Coaches should contact Deborah Moore or Diane Plas. Officials should contact their local association interpreter. Questions about OHSAA rules? Coaches should contact Debbie. Eligibility questions? – Please see your principal or AD.

THANKS FOR SUBMITTING QUESTIONS!

Many of the issues represented in this communiqué are submitted to us from our coaches and officials. Both Diane Plas and Debbie Moore greatly appreciate your contacting us, and it is our please to provide you answers directly as well as in this format. Keep the questions coming! Enjoy the season.

THIS WEEK IN VOLLEYBALL



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

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Non-Interscholastic Volleyball Participation – Sports Regulation 7.3 – Beach Volleyball

Sports Regulation 7.3 which addresses participation for a non-interscholastic program in a team sport reads as follows: "A member of an interscholastic squad sponsored by a Board of Education or other governing board in a team sport (volleyball), shall not participate in an athletic contest, tryouts or any type of team or group training or practices on a non-interscholastic squad in volleyball during the school's interscholastic season. This regulation is applicable for those invited to participate in a tryout, group training or practices at a college or in contests, tryouts, group training or practices with any non-school team such as a club."

It has been a long-standing interpretation of the OHSAA that any type of volleyball, whether played indoors or outside, on a court, another hard surface or the beach, is considered "VOLLEYBALL" in terms of this regulation. The purpose of this regulation is to protect the interscholastic season – a short seven weeks – , protect students and keep the "playing field" as level as possible by prescribing the number of contests that can be competed by any school team. Allowing participation in beach volleyball is not consistent with this regulation on its face, or the intent of the regulation. Therefore, students who have committed to the interscholastic volleyball program who engage in any non-interscholastic participation during the season shall expect a penalty, which is a denial of participation, the maximum of which could be the remainder of the school season.

If there is interest in changing this regulation, the OHSAA Board of Directors could entertain such a recommendation if submitted by the Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association or by our school administrators. For now, please be advised that participation in tournaments and contests on the beach during the season is prohibited.

Warm-up Regulations Revisited

A Couple Friendly Reminders – Officials, please monitor warm-ups to insure that players are not wearing jewelry and **that other non-playing participants (this includes coaches, team managers, non-playing students, etc) 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. Officials should remind coaches and captains of this rule at the pre-match conference. This rule is not new, but questions arise annually about the rule, especially in terms of the coach who chooses to actively engage in warm-ups with her or his team. If you choose to participate in warm-ups, coaches, please be sure that your footwear is safe and appropriate for that activity. What you wear while coaching at the bench is not addressed in the NFHS rules.

NFHS VB Rule 4 Preamble and Authorization of Exceptions to the Player Equipment or Uniform Rules

The preamble to Rule 4 stipulates that the NFHS does not perform testing on any specific items of equipment. Two notes below this preamble stipulate that coaches must verify that all players are legally equipped and attired and that the state association has the authority to authorize exemptions to NFHS playing rules to provided reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities or special needs as well as students with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations approved shall not fundamentally alter the sport, heighten risk to the athlete or others or place opponents at a disadvantage.

If players need to wear an item or use equipment that is not specifically permitted by rule, a **request for authorization must come to the OHSAA from a school or athletic administrator** on behalf of the player. Our office will make every attempt to provide that authorization as quickly as possible in a letter so that the coach can provide the authorization to the R1 prior to any match. We will approve these special requests for the duration of the student's eligibility in the sport to avoid your having to request the same each year.

Specific requests that we have entertained to date include: head wear for religious purposes; head gear that is protective provided it is soft and yielding (we will not approve hard-shell helmets for volleyball); head wear for medical reasons such as a bandanna to cover the scalp; and insulin pumps provided they are padded. We have in the past approved prosthetic limbs, which is another example of a reasonable accommodation. To help us serve you more efficiently, please try to have these requests to us before your first match. Remember that a hearing aid is not one of the pieces of equipment that requires any authorization. The same is true of corrective eyewear. In addition, please note that the uniform rules are quite liberal concerning what a player may wear. Thus, it is permissible for a player to wear long pants, a skirt or undergarments that completely cover the legs and arms provided they are a solid color and similar to the predominant color of the uniform bottom or top under which the garments are visible.