

This Week in Volleyball



September 7, 2010, Issue 6

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

- **ONLINE MAKEUP MEETING WILL REMAIN OPEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

If you have not completed the online meeting makeup meeting, you will need to complete this online meeting at a cost of \$50 as soon as possible. Coaches and officials who have still not completed the meeting will need to call into the office, ask to speak with our assistant, **Renee Moore**, pay for the meeting with a credit card, and a password will be provided to enable you to gain access to the meeting site. Credit will be given once the meeting is completed. Failure to complete this meeting will result for coaches in the school's ineligibility for the post-season OHSAA tournament and for officials, suspension as an OHSAA official as well as ineligibility for post-season tournament selection. We are working to insure that our data are accurate in terms of who has completed this requirement. Schools will be notified via their athletic administrator if the school coach has not complied. Officials will receive an email if they have not complied.

- **Ball Handling** – Ball handling calls continue to be a challenge for Ohio officials and coaches. Knowing what to look for and consistency in your calls will make you a referee every team respects.

- Here are four ball handling techniques for the referee to remember:

1. Call only the violations that are actually observed. (VISION)
2. Only the contact point of the ball with the player's hands (or body) shall be considered when judging legality. (CONTACT POINT)
3. Only obvious violations should be called. If in doubt you don't call. (OBVIOUS ONLY)
4. Outside influences (player technique, spin, noise, crowd reaction, coaches' expectations, etc.) should not have an impact on your judgment on a ball handling call.

- There are techniques the referee should use to have the proper view to make appropriate ball handling calls. One of these techniques is to look **ahead** of the ball and **see** the ball contacted by the hands or other body part of the player.

- There should not be prolonged contact or the ball visibly coming to rest. The ball shall not be caught, thrown or carried.

- If the body is divided into quadrants using imaginary lines, one at the nose backwards and the other at the ears, a player may not make contact with the ball in one quadrant and release across the body or behind/in front of the body.

- The game of volleyball is fast paced and powerful. To reward good athletic plays and help create more exciting rallies, the ball may now be contacted by any part of the body and be a legal hit.

- Regardless of where the ball contacts the body, it shall not come to visibly rest or have prolonged contact if the contact is to remain legal."

- **Blocking** - As long as some part of the blocker's body is reaching higher than the net, it does not matter where the ball touches the blocking player. It will still be considered a block even if the ball touches a part of the player's body that is NOT reaching higher than the net. As referenced, from the **Case Book, Page 29**:

9.5.4 SITUATION B: While blocking a hard-driven spike, the ball travels between the hands of the block and bounces off the head of the blocker. After coming off of the head, the ball was: (a) passed from forearms, (b) dug by setter, (c) hit off the shoulders. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal. **COMMENT:** The head can be used to block the ball, and is a legal block, not the first hit.

In last year's Power Point, there was a slide depicting a blocker reaching higher than the top of the net with the ball actually (eventually) contacting the blocker's foot. It was a two-dimensional picture so all the action couldn't be depicted and the real point last year was to emphasize that contact with the foot was legal. This discussion also brings to mind the following references:

RB 9-5-1-c, Page 33 - Block – the action of a player(s) close to the net that deflects the ball coming from the opponent by reaching higher than the top of the net at the moment of contact. A block may involve wrist action provided there is no prolonged contact.

RB 9-4-8-a, Page 32 - Multiple contacts are permitted only:

a. When the first ball over the net rebounds from one part of the player's body to one or more other parts in one attempt to block;

CB, Page 77 - 4. The player's arm, forearm, hand or fist should not remain in contact for a prolonged time with the ball when executing an attack or a throw may result. In a similar manner, a block could become a throw or carry if there is prolonged contact.