

This Week in Volleyball



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The Ohio High School Athletic Association

- **UNIFORMS**

As we approach the start of tournament competition, it is imperative that coaches insure that all players on their rosters have a legal uniform. Please keep in mind that the volleyball rules do not permit a player with an illegal uniform to participate in the match. Check that all numbers are visible, correctly placed, are permanent and appear on both the back and front of the uniform. Make sure that your libero jersey is clearly contrasting from all angles to the jerseys worn by the other players. If you have had a question about your uniforms during regular season play, you may expect that the tournament level officials will enforce the rules as written. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

- **NOTE 2 PRIOR TO NFHS VB RULE 4 – PLAYER EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORM** permits the OHSAA to authorize exceptions to playing rules which provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities or special needs or who may have unique circumstances provided such accommodations do not fundamentally alter the competition or endanger anyone. Thus, we have issued letters of approval for players to wear various medical devices such as insulin pumps, heart monitors and cochlear implants as well as head coverings for both religious and medical reasons. This late in the season we would expect that school personnel, either the head coach or an administrator, would have secured this letter of authorization for any students who might require special accommodations. This letter from the OHSAA shall be made available to the first referee at or prior to the pre-match conference, in the event that a medical, religious or other special need requires the modification of player accessories/equipment or uniform. If you have not taken care of this request, please do so immediately so that the student may enjoy participation in the OHSAA tournament if otherwise qualified. **REMINDER:** 4-1-1 prohibits the wearing of any type of guard, cast or brace, even though it might be of soft, pliable plastic, on the hand, finger, wrist or forearm.

- **SCREENING**

A coach has asked our DOD, Diane Plas, for an answer to this question: "Could you please help clarify Rule 6 article 1, screening? I had an issue with screening and was told that the players were not moving around. However, there were three of them creating a "wall" and my girls could not see the contact of the ball, and the ball was served over the group. Does the rule read that they have to be moving? I read the rule as one or more players could move OR a group of girls could STAND and the ball is served over them. I have asked four other officials and even showed one the video of the game. Everyone agreed that it was screening. I could not get the call the night of the event. One other coach told me that she sometimes gets the same explanation of they have to "move." I am just wishing to clear up the matter. I'd like to just get over it if I am wrong, but I would also like the call to be made if I am right."

Diane Plas' Response: I have listed the appropriate Rules Book and Case Book References. You are 100% correct that movement is not a requirement. The Situation in 6.5.1 Situation B (d) specifically addresses the possible "wall" of players who are not moving as you describe. The "wall" can be the front row players in the specific situation sited. It can also be a wedge formed by front row players only, back row players only or a combination of both. I recommend carrying this email with you should you need to address this with officials again. Please do understand that it is still a judgment call but it is certainly not based solely on movement or not.

SCREENING, 6-5-1

ART. 1 . . . Players on the serving team shall not take action to prevent receivers from seeing the contact of the serve or the path of the served ball. Potential screens exist, but are not limited to:

- a. When a player(s) on the serving team waves arms, jumps, moves sideways or stands close to the server, and the ball is served over the player(s).
- b. When a group of two or more players on the serving team stand close together, and the ball is served directly over them.

PENALTY: A loss of rally/point is awarded to the opponent.

6.5.1 SITUATION A: CF on the Team R claims RF on Team S, who is standing close to the net but not jumping or waving, is screening the CF view of the server. **RULING:** No screen. **COMMENT:** No player on the receiving team is entitled to a specific position on the court. If a player on the receiving team cannot see the server, that player should move. If, after that player moves, the serving team's player moves to take another position which blocks that player's view of the server and the flight of the ball, the first referee shall call screening.

6.5.1 SITUATION B: During service, the three front-row players on the serving team are grouped together. The ball is served: (a) in a high looping trajectory; (b) over the CB and CF, who are bent at the waist; (c) fast and hard, but the first referee believes the receivers could see the contact of the serve; (d) fast and hard, and the first referee believes the receivers could not see the contact of the serve. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) are all legal, no screen, play continues. (d) is the only instance where it is judged that a screen took place. **COMMENT:** If the served ball is high and easy to react to, no screen is called, regardless of the position of the players on the serving team. If the serving team players attempt to give the receivers a visual path (by bending at the waist) to see the contact of the serve, no screen is called. When the serve is low and fast, and the receivers were prevented from seeing the contact of the serve, or if a player on the serving team moves to get between the server and the receiver after the receiver has moved to see contact of the serve, the potential for calling a screen is greatest.

- **GOOD LUCK IN THE TOURNAMENTS!**