

On the Calendar  
Tournament Draw  
Sunday, Oct. 5, 2:00

# THIS WEEK IN VOLLEYBALL



The Ohio High School Athletic Association

ISSUE 8

September 25, 2014

## Divisional Breakdown Girls Volleyball

Division I: 344 and more  
Division II: 200 – 343  
Division III: 113-199  
Division IV: 112 and less

## Note on Divisional Breakdowns

Divisional alignments are determined from the official EMIS enrollment count reported to the Ohio Dept. of Education in October of 2012.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OHSAA STATE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS

November 6-8, 2014

Nutter Center

Wright State University

Tickets: \$7.00 – presale at the site of each of the 16 qualifying schools

\$9:00 at the Nutter Center.

Each ticket provides an all day admission – four matches.

Come out and support some of Ohio's best interscholastic volleyball!

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## DEALING WITH THE LIBERO AS AN ATTACK OPTION

The Libero position was introduced first to college women's volleyball as a defensive specialist and primary passer who would be able to replace any player in the back row. The OHSAA experimented with the position, following the college women's model, then adopted the position a year later based on feedback from the coaches. Initially, the libero was not allowed to serve; however, once college women's volleyball adopted libero serving, the NFHS and the OHSAA followed suit.

Nevertheless, the constraints on the libero position have remained in terms of rule restrictions associated with libero playing actions. Given the intent that the libero not be permitted to complete an attack from anywhere on the court, referees have been struggling to properly judge attacks from the libero given their not-so-great angle on attacks occurring typically from mid-back court. The libero position was not approved as an offensive weapon. Referees are guided by the OHSAA to call illegal attacks by the libero, especially when a team is incorporating these attacks as a regular part of its offensive scheme as opposed to when a play breaks down. One "clue" to the referees that a team may have incorporated the libero as part of its offensive strategy is visible when the libero is either in the team's hitting line during warm-ups or is being set during warm-ups out of the back court. This may not be easy to pick up since many teams tend to warm up wearing their warm-up tops, but seeing a shorter player being set out of the back row may be a clue.

Regardless, in light of the libero as a defensive specialist, referees are advised that if the ball is at the top of the net when contacted by the libero and a completed attack results (ball is blocked by the opponent or passes untouched to the opponent's side), an illegal attack call by the R1 in partnership with the R2 (informal help) is probably in the spirit of the libero rule. As usual, individual referees must judge ball height and are advised to err on the side of calling this fault, which is in general contrast to how other NFHS volleyball rules are enforced. This type of approach may be what is needed to avoid allowing teams to take advantage of the referees not being in the best position to make this fault call.

## LET'S CLEAN UP OUR ACT

Recent reports have pointed out a series of problems occurring around the state that ignore the NFHS rules which we are required to follow for OHSAA volleyball matches. Coaches, players and/or referees need to do a better job in terms of:

1. Avoiding taunting in the form of a stare-down after a big kill or stuff block instead of turning back to celebrate with teammates, with the stare-down receiving tacit approval of the head coach.
2. Assistant coaches in varsity matches and head Varsity coaches in sub-varsity matches still stepping out to coach on a dead ball in direct contravention of the rule that only each team's head coach standing to coach pursuant to the limitations of Rules 12-2-5 and 12-2-6.
3. Coaches not following the requirement of staying out of the sub zone during a set in progress.
4. Coaches asking for information from the staff at the officials' table instead of going through the sub zone.
5. Having a libero wear an all-white jersey with white sleeves in a sub-varsity match when the teammates' jerseys are black with white side panels sloping down to 10" wide along with white sleeves, and having referees not raise a concern. Remember that under current rules the libero jersey must be clearly contrasting from all angles.
6. Having an obvious serious injury where referees fail to quickly whistle to end play and authorize bench assistance to go immediately to the injured player, and having coaches not move quickly to the injured player or secure available trainer or medical assistance from qualified medical professionals.
7. Liberos exiting the set and standing in front of the team bench when coaches know that players must be seated.

It is to be expected that these issues on non-compliance will be penalized as we move along the tournament trail. Coaches, please do not be surprised, and officials do the job that is expected of you. Enforce the rules.