

Volleyball Comments on the Rules – 2015 by NFHS on May 05, 2015

4-2-2: The penalty for a player attempting to enter a set with an illegal uniform is an unnecessary delay using the administrative cards. The player shall not enter the set until the illegal uniform is replaced or made legal. Although there is a penalty if a player is discovered in an illegal uniform in the set, the referees should make every attempt to prevent a violation.

5-6-3h: The scorer has the responsibility to record administrative yellow/red cards for an unnecessary delay in the comment section of the scoresheet. These shall be recorded as YUD (Yellow Unnecessary Delay) or RUD (Red Unnecessary Delay). The second referee shall discuss with the scorer the method of communication and confirmation with the official scorer if an unnecessary delay is assessed.

7-1-5, 6: If a team submits a lineup with a player number that no team member is wearing, there must be a substitution of a player with a legal number into that position. The player must be listed on the roster. With the addition of Article 6, if a coach submits a lineup with the same player number listed twice, a legal substitution shall be made so the set starts with six unique, legal players. In both rules, a legal substitution shall be made to correct a lineup issue that otherwise does not affect the match. Preventive officiating should be used to avoid such errors prior to the start of the match. Ultimately, however, it is the coach's responsibility to submit an accurate roster and lineup and if such an error occurs, the appropriate penalty should be assessed.

9-9-1: In rally scoring, the removal of a time-out for an unnecessary delay is much more severe than the actual action causing the delay. A first assessment of unnecessary delay in a set does not result in a time-out being charged. Instead, an administrative yellow card is assessed as a warning. A second offense in the same set results in an administrative red card and a loss of rally/penalty point assessed. The head coach is not required to remain seated for administrative/delay yellow or red cards. It should be noted, that the first referee may issue cards for unsporting conduct for repeated unnecessary delay violations in multiple sets. Coaches should not assume they are entitled to a warning in each set.

10-2-5: The substitution procedure during a time-out has been revised. No substitute shall enter the set until both teams are back on the court. After the time-out has ended,

the substitute(s) may enter using the normal exchange procedure. This improves the communication between the second and first referees, coaches, and fans.

11-5-1, 2: An intermission may be used in addition to the regular three-minute interval between Set Nos. 2 and 3 (Set Nos. 1 and 2 in two-of-three set match). The intermission is limited to an additional two minutes in length for a total of five minutes. The host school determines whether there will be an intermission, which must be confirmed prior to the pre-match conference. The intermission provides consistency and guidelines for schools conducting promotional or special recognition activities between sets. Each team has the responsibility to report to the court at the proper time by the end of the intermission.

12-2-6: Administrative cards issued for an unnecessary delay do not require the head coach to remain seated during play. These cards are considered administrative in nature. The assessment of administrative cards is different than the assessment of penalty cards issued for unsporting conduct.

Volleyball Points of Emphasis - 2015

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- 1. Unnecessary Delay and the Use of Administrative Cards – The penalty for unnecessary delay has been changed from the loss of a time-out, or a point if no time-outs are remaining, to a warning for the first offense in a set and a subsequent delay in the same set resulting in a loss of rally/point. If a team has unnecessary delays in multiple sets, the first referee may consider this unsporting conduct and penalize accordingly. A yellow card shall be displayed for the warning using new mechanics for unnecessary delay. If there is a second delay in the same set, a red card shall be displayed using the new mechanics. Cards do not carry over from set to set. The cards issued for unnecessary delay are administrative cards and are not cards issued for unsporting conduct. The mechanics of issuing the card will be distinguishable from the unsporting yellow/red card. The head coach is not required to remain seated for an administrative card issued for an unnecessary delay.**

- 2. Solid-Colored Uniform – The use of the solid-colored uniform is required beginning July 1, 2016. Schools are already purchasing uniforms compliant to the rule. Who must wear the solid-color jersey? 1) The libero may wear the solid-colored jersey and the color must be in contrast to the predominant color(s) of the team uniforms. 2) The team may be in solid-colored jerseys that are in contrast to the predominant color(s) of the libero’s uniform top. 3) Both team and libero may be in solid-colored jerseys but the libero’s jersey must be in contrasting color to the teammates’ jerseys. The official should ask the coach which jersey is solid-color; at that point, the official observes that jersey for compliant as a solid-colored jersey. The purpose of the rule is to clearly and consistently identify the libero and thus the referees can judge legal player action by the libero. Rule 4-2-2 NOTE should be carefully reviewed before purchasing jerseys. Requirements and restrictions for trim, numbers, size of logos, etc., are outlined in the rule. The coach has the responsibility to place his/her athletes in legal uniforms and should not rely on a sales representative or manufacturer to interpret the uniform rule. Questions on the solid-color jersey should be directed to the respective state high school association.**
- 3. Resuming Play After Intermission – With the option to utilize an intermission, schools may conduct promotional or special recognition activities between Set Nos. 2 and 3 (Set Nos. 1 and 2 in a three-set match). It is important that each team’s coach meets his/her responsibility to have the team on the court no later than the expiration of the intermission. A team that delays the start of play by not returning to the court on time shall be issued an unnecessary delay penalty. The intermission, when used, includes, in addition to the standard three-minute interval between sets, an extra two minutes bringing the total time to five minutes between Set Nos. 2 and 3.**
- 4. Preventive Officiating – The first and second referees set the overall tone for the competition. Attending to pre-match responsibilities with the bench officials and line judges and discussing any informal communication signals to be used during the match may prevent delay. Thoroughly checking roster and lineups may also eliminate delays or the need for penalties. Preventive officiating is a valuable tool for all officials.**
- 5. Annual Review of Equipment and Facilities – The school coach and athletic administrator have the responsibility to be certain all equipment is in compliance with the rules and kept in good condition. Equally important is the facility set-up for the match to have clear playing area, and proper floor markings and officials table in the proper location along with team benches. The review of equipment should be done annually as well as checking to be sure all is in good order for the night of the contest. This includes the referees platform. If problems arise with equipment, the proper staff member should be notified so the matter can be resolved. Taking time to review your equipment and facilities will benefit the teams and officials.**