

This Week in Volleyball



August 29, 2011, Issue 4

The Ohio High School Athletic Association

- **NEW SCORING VIDEO AND TUTORIAL** - A new video has been produced by the NFHS providing instructions for rally scoring and the libero tracker. The video will take the viewer through a sample set using the NFHS Scoresheet. In addition, instructions for the libero tracker and a sample tracking sheet following the set action is provided. This new tutorial appears on the volleyball pages of the NFHS Officiating Central Hub (www.nfhs.arbitersports.com) and NFHS Web site (www.nfhs.org). Schools are encouraged to use this resource for training the scorer and libero tracker.

In addition, the OHSAA received permission to provide a copy of a PowerPoint tutorial on using the scoresheet. That tutorial has been posted to the volleyball page and you can click here to see the presentation: <http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/vb/girls/2011/NFHS-2011-ScoringPresentation.ppt>

We are working to update all forms including the most up to date scoresheet and libero tracking sheet. We thank you for your patience as the month of August is one of our busiest with all fall sports beginning and pre-season eligibility rulings at an all time high.

- **7th-8th GRADE MATCHES** – The office continues to receive calls and emails on this question which affects middle school volleyball. Please advise all middle school coaches that OHSAA rules do not restrict on which squad a middle school player participates. Therefore, a 7th grader could play in both the 7th and 8th grade matches, and, likewise, an 8th grader could play in both the 7th and 8th grade matches. The only restriction is the three set limitation. **Note: Each player is entitled to participate in just one post-season tournament – either the 7th or the 8th grade tournament but not both.**
- **MEDICAL APPLICANCES AND HARDWARE** - NFHS rules and OHSAA policy request that a school get permission for a student to wear unusual medical hardware prescribed by a physician such as an insulin pump, a heart rate monitor or even a prosthetic limb. Knee braces and other protective equipment that are not prohibited by rule are permissible. A player who has to wear a protective soft face mask would not need permission to wear this protection. However, wearing a device such as a catcher's mask, would not be permissible as it would be deemed dangerous to others. If an official requests the letter of authorization, that means that you must request the accommodation from the OHSAA.

We have had questions about a "performance sleeve" and whether or not it is permissible by rule. This sleeve is made of spandex and nylon and is a soft, yielding material. It is intended to offer support to the structures around the elbow or knee. Thus, this sleeve is legal and would really be no different than a long sleeve jersey.

- **FEATHERS (HORSEFEATHERS?) REVISITED** – After a rather animated electronic discussion among state association volleyball personnel across the United States about the "feathers in the hair" phenomenon, the NFHS has provided the following interpretation which Ohio shall use. It does not conflict with our original guidance on this matter.

"The many questions on feathers have come up and an interpretation needed. Under Rule 4-1-5 "hair devices made of soft material and no more than 2 inches wide may be worn."

- *The rule does not specify the device must be used for hair control*
- *The feather cannot be wider than 2 inches. Length is not addressed in the rule. Most feathers will not exceed a width of 2 inches.*
- *Items that fall within the rule would have to be considered in context with the rules*
- *If an item presents a problem falling out assess an unnecessary delay*
- *If the item is inappropriate by sportsmanship standards prohibit the item from being worn*
- *Hard and unyielding items being worn are prohibited*
- *In context with the current language and interpretations, the feather is permitted unless connected by way of a hard and unyielding item.*