

# 2019 MHSAA Volleyball Rules Interpretations & Updates

2019 TOURNAMENT DATES	COMPETITION LIMITATIONS
Districts – Week of Nov. 4 - 9	18 days of competition
Regionals – Nov.12 (Semis) and 14 (Finals)	Maximum of 21 sets per day
Quarterfinals – Nov. 19	ALL dual varsity must be 3/5
Semifinals – Nov. 21-22	ALL levels must use rally scoring
Finals – Nov. 23	

\*A student shall not play for two or more teams on any level (varsity or sub varsity, scrimmage or contest) in the same sport on the same day.

## PRE-MATCH PROTOCOL FOR POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT MATCHES

20 minutes should be on the clock and the clock should be running:

- 20 – 16 min. Shared time on the court, no volleyballs crossing the net.
- 16 – 12 min. Home team takes the court.
- 12 – 08 min. Visiting team takes the court.
- 08 – 04 min. Home team takes the court.
- 04 – 00 min. Visiting team takes the court.

Immediately after timed warm-ups, teams report to the appropriate end line.

Pre-match activities then begin:

- National Anthem
- Introduction of players

Players stay on or near end line – do not shake hands with opposing coach or referee.

After introductions and the National anthem, R1 whistles and motions (first) the captains and then the rest of the team, to the net. After the handshake, the non-players go to the team bench. The starters go to their floor position. Then the R2 moves to the sideline beside the court and checks the lineups for each team (from the lineup card). First set begins.

## UNSPORTING CONDUCT

- a. Warning (yellow card) for first minor offenses.
- b. Unsporting penalty (red card) for first serious offense or second minor offense and loss of rally/point awarded to opponent.
- c. Disqualification (yellow and red card) for first flagrant offense, second serious offense; or third minor offense and loss of rally/point awarded to opponent. Offender is disqualified from further participation in match and may be removed from the vicinity of the team bench.
- d. Forfeit results when:
  - 1. Disqualified individual violates conduct rules following disqualification.
  - 2. Coach is disqualified and removed from premises and no other authorized school personnel is available to take the bench.
  - 3. Team refuses to play when directed to do so by the R1.

All cards carry over from set to set throughout the match.

## 19-20 MHSAA POINTS OF EMPHASIS

**Ball** – A (royal) blue/grey/white volleyball must be used at all high school level matches (regular season and post-season).

**ART. 4...**Flags shall be used by line judges for signals and should be red in color. Host school provides flags.

**NOTE: ART. 1...** Line judges shall be provided by the host school.

\*[Best practices for Line Judges](#) should be studied in advance of the match.

**iPhones/iPads** - The NFHS has taken a position that iPhones and iPads and any application (for the referees) are not allowed during the match.

**Ear gauges/plugs** - Earlobe gauges (used to stretch holes in the earlobe) or plastic plugs (worn in the earlobe in place of an earring) are illegal. The gauges and plugs are considered jewelry and therefore are illegal. In addition, fish line worn in an ear pierce or nose pierce is considered illegal as well.

**Headbands** - Per the MHSAA Volleyball rules meeting (but contra 4.1.6 Situation A) sequins, beads, glitter, etc. placed on the headband are illegal. A head band may be worn but it must be made of soft material, no more than 3 inches wide and free from adornments as mentioned.

**Arm/Elbow Guards/Terry Cloth Wrist Bands** – We allow a sleeve/guard with an elbow pad or “terry cloth” wrist band as long as there is nothing hard or unyielding in the sleeve. Currently the NFHS says they should be the same color as the predominant color of the uniform but we will allow a solid white or black (similar to basketball). If more than one player wears such, they all have to wear the same color. In other words, whatever one wears (color wise) all that choose to wear sleeves would then have to be the same color.

### **LETTER OF PERMISSION REQUIRED FROM MHSAA**

Coaches & officials are reminded that players with special equipment (artificial limb, hearing transmitter, heart monitor, insulin pump, helmet for concussion management, etc.) must have a letter of permission from the MHSAA. Coaches will be responsible to have this letter with them to present to officials at each contest. To receive letter from MHSAA: send request & description of device/how secured, name/grade/age of athlete, etc.

### **REMINDERS: DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NFHS & OTHER RULE CODES**

1. Net fault occurs when:  
A player contacts any part of the net, including the net cable or net antennas  
Net fault = loss of rally/point
2. No Pursuit Rule
3. No Extended Intermission:  
The time period between sets of a match shall be no more than 3 minutes. Host management may use the intermission between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> sets for a special promotion or recognition ONLY; if this option is exercised, the intermission shall not exceed 5 minutes.
4. 5<sup>th</sup> Set (deciding set) teams remain on the same team bench entire set.
5. Center line (more restrictive)
6. Only one libero may be designated per set.

## 19-20 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES CHANGES

**2-2-2, 2-3j (NEW), 2-4-1e(NEW), 2-4 PENALTIES 3 (NEW), 9-8-1i:** When the ball strikes the cables and/or the diagonal poles used to retract ceiling suspended net systems the referee will stop play and determine if the ball was playable. The referee will signal out-of-bounds or replay.

**Rationale:** Establishes the cables and diagonal poles used to retract suspended net systems as restricted play and aligns officials' treatment of a ball striking either the cables and/or the diagonal poles.

**4-2-1, 4-2-1a (NEW), 4-2-1e (NEW), 4-2-2 (NEW):** Eliminates the solid-colored uniform requirements, establishes that the libero uniform must clearly contrast with his/her teammates' uniforms and reorganizes the legal uniform rule.

**Rationale:** Clarifies the requirements for all legal uniforms and simplifies the requirements for the contrasting libero uniform maintaining the compliance of all currently compliant team and libero uniform jerseys.

**4-2-4b:** Eliminates the use of double zero (00) as a uniform number option.

**Rationale:** Eliminates confusion surrounding the signaling of "00" and "0".

**4-2-4c:** Beginning with the 2023 season the body of the uniform number must clearly contrast with the uniform top regardless of borders. This will eliminate the allowance of borders to provide contrast between the number and the uniform number.

**Rationale:** Allows officials and scorers to easily identify uniform numbers.

**5-5-1b; 5-6-1b; 7-1-1a; 7-1 PENALTIES 1; 7-1-2; 7-1-4; 7-1-4 PENALTIES 1, 2:** Requires the second referee to collect team rosters at the prematch conference while allowing changes to be made until 10 minutes remain on the pregame clock and establishes lineups to be submitted to the second referee before each set.

**Rationale:** Eliminates warmup interruptions by officials requesting rosters with 10 minutes remaining on the warmup clock, allowing for a smoother warmup process for coaches, players, officials and scorers.

**5-9-2a NOTE:** Establishes that the line judge shall take their position and move in line with the extension of the end line when the ball is being served near the line judge's position replacing the old technique to move directly back in line with the sideline.

**Rationale:** Allows the line judge to watch for foot contact with the end line and move quickly back for a view of the sideline. This is a more appropriate position and transition for line judges.

**8-1-6, 8-2-5g (NEW), 8-2-6d:** Establishes that the ball remains dead when tossed for serve and it touches any part of the backboard or supports hanging in a vertical position over the serving area and is an illegal serve (Signal 13) and not a service fault.

**Rationale:** Accurately reflects the action since the ball is not contacted for serve.

## 19-20 NFHS VOLLEYBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

**2-1-5:** Clarifies that the attack line shall be measured from the edge of the attack line farthest from the center line to the axis of the center line.

**4-2-7:** Clarifies the penalty for the removal of any part of the uniform top or bottom as a yellow card charged to the coach for unsporting conduct.

**5-5-3b(26):** Provides additional instructions for the second referee when conducting the coin toss prior to the deciding set by requiring the second referee to communicate with the first referee the serving team and the proper team benches.

**8-1-6, 8-2-5g:** Establishes the proper signal for a tossed ball that contacts a backboard or its supports hanging in a vertical position over the serving area is officials signal 13.

## **19-20 NFHS VOLLEYBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS**

1. Informal Officials Signals
2. Ball handling
3. Side Folding Retractable Backboards