



MHSAA VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS WIRELESS CREW COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

With continued changes in technology, communication devices worn by officials are becoming more and more commonplace. While most understand that these devices can benefit the communication between members of an officiating crew, officials must be prepared to deal with the responsibility for using such device. The primary benefits of crew communication devices in volleyball are 1) efficient communication between officials to prevent extended delays and 2) to augment some of the discrete signals used by volleyball officials to allow for better recognition of those instances.

DEFINITIONS

- For MHSAA volleyball contests, a crew communication device is defined as a two-way radio with an earpiece. This may include either a push-to-talk or “always open” microphone and may be either hardwired, wireless or Bluetooth. Other types of unofficial communication devices are prohibited and may not be carried by an official during competition.

GENERAL USE

- Crew communication devices MAY be used during all subvarsity matches if used in accordance with these guidelines. Use of crew communication devices for the 2022-23 season will serve as a pilot program to determine whether use of these devices will be made acceptable during varsity contests in future seasons.
- The use of crew communication devices is voluntary and not mandatory. The decision on whether to implement the use of crew communication devices is solely the decision of the officials in each contest.
- The use of crew communication devices is primarily for use by the R1 and R2, but Line Judges that are assigned MHSAA-registered volleyball officials may also utilize the devices in coordination with the rest of the crew.
- While crew communication devices may be a useful tool during officials training and can provide real-time feedback during clinics or scrimmages, under no circumstances may a crew communication device be provided to an individual not assigned and officiating the match.
- Officials should be ever mindful that most radio systems are NOT secure from the public.
- Careful attention must be paid to what is said when speaking into the headsets and the safest approach would be “if you don’t want it on the public address system, don’t say it on the radio”.

PRE-MATCH COMMUNICATION:

- The lead official must facilitate clear communications and expectations regarding the use of the devices.
- When used, the lead official shall be responsible for ensuring that each official on the crew has been provided a charged and working device.
- Crews must ensure that the channel or frequency of the communication devices DOES NOT interfere with any communication devices of the coaching staffs and/or match administration. It is the crew’s responsibility to avoid channel or frequency conflicts with any other party.
- The lead official shall coordinate a testing of the crew communication devices to ensure proper operation and connectivity to all devices used by the officiating crew.



MHSAA VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS WIRELESS CREW COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

DURING THE MATCH

- The use of these crew communication devices SHALL NOT replace any MHSAA approved mechanics, crew communication signals or other signals designated by any NFHS publication or MHSAA adopted mechanics from another source.
- Crew communication devices SHALL NOT negate any responsibilities of the R2 to maintain a proper lineup card.
- Crew communication devices are intended solely to ensure timely communication between officials and coaches, as well as between the officials.
- All communication on the devices must be directly related to the contest using only appropriate and professional language.
- Do not use any inappropriate language, derogatory statements or comments in reference to any player, coach, fan, etc.
- Crew members must keep communication short and to the point. Keep chatter and unnecessary comments off the devices.
- Between rallies, the R1 and R2 may communicate pertinent information to one another. For instance:
 - A conference regarding a specific rule.
 - A conference regarding a particular play.
 - Situations when both teams are substituting or when one team is requesting a timeout.
 - Request by the R2 for unsporting penalties to be applied to a team, coach or player.
 - To provide explanation for delays or to pass along questions of a coach.
 - Libero service position.
- Between rallies, the R1 may communicate with Line Judges when a consultation at the stand would normally be required regarding:
 - A block out and off which team.
 - An antenna fault off which team.
- During a rally, the R2 may communicate with the R1 to assist and expedite the ruling process. When communicating during the rally, the R2 should utilize simple verbiage in blocks of three. For instance:
 - Overhead pass in the front zone by the Libero = "Libero, Libero, Libero"
 - Overhead pass by the Libero behind the attack line = "Good, good, good"
 - Illegal back row setter = "Back, back, back"
 - Back row player takes off on or in front of the attack line = "Back, back, back"
 - Back row player takes off behind the attack line = "Good, good, good"
 - Blocker reaching over = "Over, over, over"
 - Glancing touch on the block = "Touch, touch, touch"
 - A ball "out" on the R2's sideline (when the LJ may not have a good look) = "Out, out, out"
 - A ball "in" on the R2's sideline (when the LJ may not have a good look) = "In, in, in"
 - Successful pancake = "Good, good, good"
 - Unsuccessful pancake = "Down, down, down"
 - Potential four-hit violation = "Four, four, four"