

2025 MHSAA Volleyball Rules Interpretations & Updates

2025 TOURNAMENT DATES	COMPETITION LIMITATIONS
Districts – Week of Nov. 3-8	18 days of competition
Regionals – Nov. 12 (Semis) and 14 (Finals)	Maximum of 18 sets per day
Quarterfinals – Nov. 18	ALL dual varsity must be 3/5
Semifinals – Nov. 20-21	ALL levels must use rally scoring
Finals – Nov. 22	

*A student shall not play for two or more teams on any level (varsity or subvarsity, 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.

25-26 MHSAA POINTS OF EMPHASIS

Ball – A (royal) blue/grey/white, smooth-textured 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.

Arm/Elbow Guards/Terry Cloth Wrist Bands – We allow a sleeve/guard with an elbow pad or “terry cloth” wristband 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 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 2nd and 3rd sets for a special promotion or recognition ONLY; if this option is exercised, the intermission shall not exceed 5 minutes.
4. Teams remain on the same team bench for the entire match, unless the R1 determines that one side of the court has a distinct disadvantage, in which case teams shall switch benches between each set.
5. Center line (more restrictive)
6. Only one libero may be designated per set.

25-26 NATIONAL FEDERATION RULES CHANGES

3-2-1 NOTE (NEW): Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball.

Rationale: Allows either boys or girls to adopt a textured volleyball with no restrictions on color or shape of panels to be inclusive of all current textured volleyballs on the market.

4-2-1h(3), 4-2-1i(2): Team members may wear black, white or gray undergarments in addition to undergarments that match the predominant color of the uniform top/bottom under the uniform top and/or bottom. All team members, other than the libero, wearing an undergarment must wear the same color.

Rationale: Aligns with other NFHS rules codes allowing athletes to wear more commonly found colors of undergarments.

4-2-4d, f: Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam and neckline.

Rationale: Removes officials from the position of measuring uniforms to verify the legal distance of the number from the shoulder or neckline, creates consistency in number placement, and allows for number placement variances due to player body types.

5-3-2b, 5-5-3b(9): Eliminates the requirement for the second referee to carry and use a lineup card to check the starting lineups.

Rationale: Allows veteran officials to use each coach's submitted lineup sheet to check the starting lineup while allowing the use of the lineup card as a training tool for newer officials to assist with tracking rotations during the match.

9-4-8c (NEW): Eliminates the judgment call of a multiple contact fault in a single attempt to play the ball on the second team hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

Rationale: Allows for play to continue when multiple contacts on the second contact does not create an advantage for the offending team.

10-4 PENALTIES 1: Changes the penalty administration for an illegal libero replacement to an unnecessary delay if identified before contact of serve and an illegal alignment if identified after contact for serve.

Rationale: Aligns the penalty for an illegal libero replacement with the definition of illegal alignment which occurs on contact of serve.

25-26 NFHS VOLLEYBALL MAJOR EDITORIAL CHANGES

4-1 & 4-2 PENALTIES; 4-2-4c; 7-2a; 7-4; 7-1-4 PENALTIES 1 & 2; Signal 1

25-26 NFHS VOLLEYBALL POINTS OF EMPHASIS

1. Lineup Card
2. Ball Handling
3. First Referee Assigning Line Judges
4. Uniforms – Contrasting Colors