

MHSAA OFFICIALS BULLETIN



Are You Ready for Some Volleyball? Then Pack Your Bag and Let's Go!

The start of the volleyball season has begun and that means an official must be ready for anything. So, exactly what do you bring in that bag of tricks? Well for one, a good, positive attitude. Officials have the ability to affect the future of volleyball players, both new- to -the sport and seasoned players. Our attitude, demeanor, appearance, physical fitness and rule knowledge become our courtside baggage for each match.

That rule book that you have read and understand needs to be followed the second you arrive at your volleyball venue. Don't assume that all coaches and players have a clear understanding of all the rules. Therefore, make sure that you call them early in the season, as well as early in the game. You only get one shot at making the game fair to everybody.

The way you start a match potentially can impact the entire outcome. It starts at the captain and coaches' pre-match meeting. Here are some important things to remember:

- Remind the captains to relay what is said in the meeting to their teammates. Emphasize the importance of being a captain. Help promote leadership in these young athletes.
- Go over playing and non-playing areas since safety is one of our main concerns. And don't forget to let the R2 discuss the proper ways for subs to enter the match.
- Remind players that in MHSAA, the net is a barrier between players, therefore, only the ball should be touching the net. During the next few weeks, this statement will reinforce the rule that a

players is not allowed to touch the net. However if they do, what is the correct signal sequence between the R1 and R2? Hint: the R2 starts the sequence.

- Announce the warm-up order after that flip -of- the coin and watch play during the warm-ups to familiarize yourself with the setter, hitters, and back row players. Also, both R1 and R2 should watch for possible errant balls entering the court during the team's serving portion. Safety is especially important during this part of the warm-up. The coach may even ask you to inform them when they have 1 or 2 minutes left in the warm-up. QUESTION: What is the sequence for sounding the end of each team's four minute warm-up sessions?

Remember, our on-court presence can be the single most critical factor in showing our abilities of being a good communicator, someone knowledgeable of the rules and proper protocol, and what it takes from players, coaches, and officials to provide an atmosphere that promotes good sportsmanship, safety, and fair play.

Enjoy your new season and "DON'T forget your bag of tricks! Our Advice: LEAVE YOUR BAD ATTITUDE BAGGAGE AT HOME AND ENJOY THE MATCH.

Rules Review: While attempting to block a hard-driven attack, Team R's RF deflects the ball back into the net. As the ball falls from the net, RF reaches out in attempt to save the ball from falling to the floor. The ball goes off of RF's fist and then off her shoulder.

Ruling: This is a legal play. The block is not considered first contact and so the RF's hit with her fist is considered the first contact.