



### Don't Cross that Centerline while Driving or in Volleyball

As licensed drivers we learn to not cross the centerline to prevent accidents from occurring. This is kind of the same policy in playing volleyball. The centerline is there as a preventative boundary from possible injuries, therefore it is crucial for the referees to watch closely for possible infractions or faults made by the players. Understanding the correct rule is extremely important to ensure the safety of all athletes and allow the game to be played fairly for everyone. What is the rule for what can or cannot cross/ or be on the center line during play?

The correct centerline fault is primary called by the R2 and can be easily spotted if the R2 is on the receiving team's side of the net. As the ball is entering the plane of the net, the R2 should be focused on the receiving team's front player's hands, then bodies, then feet until transition from the net is made by all of the players on both sides. Calling the net may be easy but remembering to watch for centerline faults can be easily forgotten by the R2. If a player's foot or hand completely crosses the centerline, is it a fault? If the player steps on another player's foot or hand, is that a fault? And if a player slides under the net outside the antennas, is it a fault? All of these answers can be found on pages 37 – 39 in the 2019-20 NFHS Volleyball Rules book.

So when the R2 is not policing the centerline, what are some of the other important duties they need to do to ensure that the game is fair to all? One of the challenging things that happen on the court is when teams "huddle after each rally". While this may build team unity, it can also cause a delay in play and the flow of the set. The R2

should first, try a gentle "tweet tweet" whistle toward the team. If it does not respond and this behavior continues, simply turn to the coach and mention that "we need the huddling to be quicker or stop so you're not delaying the match". The R1 can assist by calling over the captain and stating the same verbiage to her. If no improvement is made, administered a delay sanction/unnecessary delay. Which brings up the question, "How does the R2 signal an unnecessary delay sanction?" See pg. 67 in NFHS Volleyball Rules Book.

Substitutions are also under the jurisdiction of the R2. Recording subs and time outs are not only the duties of the scorer but also the role of the R2. That line-up card that you checked the players' position on the floor should also be used to keep track of all subs, time outs, and sanctions. Feel free to mark this anyway that you need to keep an accurate account of this information, Be sure to confirm during every time out with the scorer that the two of you agree on this information. Remember, it is the R2 responsibility to inform the head coach of the number of substitutions used after what number of subs? See pg. 43 in 2019 NFHS Volleyball Rule book.

The R2 is important to monitoring the game. Take some time to review the R2's responsibilities on pages 2-26 in the NFHS Volleyball Rules book and don't forget to WATCH that CENTERLINE for Traffic!

**Rules Review:** The head coach is standing in the libero replacement zone during a dead ball and is coaching the player substituting into the set.

**Ruling:** This is legal. However, during play, the coach must return to an area no closer than six feet from the sideline.