

**IHSAA Volleyball Rules Interpretations /Corrections--2007
(Revised 8-2-07)**

Modifications

Varsity Matches:

1. All matches shall be best three-of-five games.
2. Games shall be played to 25 points (no cap), and the fifth and deciding game shall be played to 15 points (no cap). In all games, the winning team must win by two points.
3. The two minutes allotted for serving time has been eliminated.

Junior Varsity/Freshman Matches:

1. All matches shall be best two-of-three games.
2. The first two games shall be played to 25 points, with a cap of 25 points. If needed, the third game shall be played to 15, with a cap of 15 points. The winning team does not need a two point advantage, once it reaches the cap.
3. The two minutes allotted for serving time has been eliminated.

General:

1. Regular season tournaments shall consist of matches requiring the best three-of-five or the best two-of-three games.

Rule Interpretations

Situation #1: Rules 6-3-2e; 9-5-6d; 10-4-1a: Libero serving

The coach wants the libero (L #8), who is in the LB position, to serve for # 7 who is in the LF position when # 7 rotates to the serve position. After a point/loss of rally, L #8 who was in the LB position goes through the replacement zone and takes a seat on the team bench. The coach requests a time out. At the conclusion of the time out, the team returns to the floor, the umpire verifies the player positions, and L #8 replaces # 7 in the serving position.

Ruling: Incorrect procedure

Comment: If the libero is in the game and the coach wants the libero to serve, the libero must go directly to the service position when replacing the player rotation into the service position. Once the libero takes a position on the team bench, the libero must sit out at least one rally before any replacement can take place. The coach cannot "buy the libero into the game" with the use of a time out.

Situation #2: Rule 4-2-1d-; Penalty 4: Illegal Uniforms

Team A enters the playing area wearing uniforms that do not cover the midriff. The team does not have any alternate uniforms available. The coach of Team B demands a forfeit be declared. The referee allows the match to be played with a loss of rally/point penalty assessed to Team A and the state association shall be notified.

Ruling: Correct procedure

Situation #3: Rule 5-4-1-d: Verifying the lineup

The umpire is required to verify the lineup prior to play.

Ruling: There is no official protocol for this procedure. The umpire is required to make sure the starting lineup is correctly recorded on the score sheet. The umpire should make sure that the official lineup corresponds to the player placement on the court.

Situation #4: Rule 7-1-1-b: Libero and the roster

The coach submits a roster with players listed 1 through 12. Game # 1 is played without a libero. The coach submits a line-up for game # 2 with player # 5 listed as the libero.

Ruling: Legal—play continues

The roster lists all players and their numbers that are eligible to play. Player # 5 is listed as a player and is eligible to play as a regular player # 5 or with a legal libero uniform # 5.

Situation #5: Rule 7-1-1-b: Libero and the roster

The coach submits a roster with player listed 1 through 11 with player # 12 listed as 12 / L20. Game # 1 is played without the libero. The coach submits line-up for game # 2 with player # 20 listed as the libero.

Ruling: Legal—play continues

Players may be assigned two uniform numbers on the roster.

Situation #6: Rule 7-1-4: Penalty 4: Libero and the roster

The coach submits a roster with players # 1 through #12. Game one is player without a libero player. The coach submits a lineup for game #2 with player wearing regular uniform # 5 listed as the libero # 20.

Ruling: Player # 20 was not listed on the roster. The only way that # 20 can play is with a roster violation penalty (loss of rally / point).

Situation #7: Rule 4-1-6: Medical Alert Medals / Jewelry

Player # 10 is on the court with a medical alert medal taped to her wrist / forearm.

Ruling: Legal

Medical alert medals are not considered jewelry and can be worn anywhere on the body, but must be taped to the body.

Situation #8: Rule 9-5-6: Libero attack

The libero on Team R returns the ball which is completely above the height of the net to Team S's court while clearly behind the attack line.

Ruling: Illegal back row attack

The libero shall not complete an attack from any playable area if, at the moment of contact, the ball is entirely above the height of the net.

Situation #9: Rule 9-5-1-c: Blocking

The setter on Team R is standing with her back toward the net with her hands extended above her head. Team S returns the ball and it contacts her hand which is clearly below the height of the net. The referee rules that the contact is a block and Team R has three hits remaining.

Ruling: Incorrect ruling

The setter's hands were below the height of the net. Therefore, the setter is not a blocker. The touch is the first contact and Team R has two hits remaining.

Situation #10: Rule 9-5-1-c-3: Collective Block

The CF and CB of Team S are in front of the attack line, near the net, in close proximity to each other, with their hands extended above the height of the net. Team R returns the ball which is contacted by the CF above the height of the net.

Ruling: Illegal back row block

It is a back row blocking foul if a back row player or libero participates in a completed collective block.

Situation #11: Rule 9-5-1-c-3: Blocking

The CF and CB of Team S are in front of the attack line, near the net, in close proximity to each other. The CF's hands are extended above the height of the net. The CB's hands are clearly below the height of the net. Team R returns the ball which is contacted by the CF above the height of the net.

Ruling: Legal block—play continues

This is NOT a collective block. The CB is not a blocker and is not considered part of the block since her hands are below the height of the net.

Situation #12: Rule 9-5-1-c-3: Blocking

The CF and CB of Team S are in front of the attack line, near the net, in close proximity to each other. The CF's hands are extended above the height of the net. The CB's hands are clearly below the height of the net. Team R returns the ball which is contacted by the CB below the height of the net.

Ruling: First contact by Team S—play continues with Team S having two remaining hits

This is NOT a collective block. The CB is not considered part of the block since her hands are below the height of the net.

Situation #13: Rule 9-5-1-c: Back row blocking

A back row player on Team R is in close proximity to the net with her hands above the height of the net just prior to contact with the ball. Her hands are slightly below the height of the net when she contacts the ball.

Ruling: First contact by Team R. The back row player's hands were below the height of the net at the time of contact.

Therefore, the back row player is not a blocker and the contact is considered the first contact with two more contacts remaining for Team R.

Situation #14: Rule 9-5-1-c: Back row blocking

A back row player on Team R is in close proximity to the net with her hands above the height of the net. Team S returns the ball which contacts the back row player in the shoulder which is below the height of the net while her hands are above the height of the net.

Ruling: Illegal back row block—The back row player is considered a blocker since her hands are above the height of the net. Her contact with the ball is considered a block even though the actual ball contact was below the height of the net. Criteria for a block—Player near the net having contact with the ball while her hand or hands are above the net height.

Situation #15: Rule 9-5-6-a: Libero

The libero on Team R, while on or in front of the attack line, passes the ball toward a teammate using overhand finger action. The ball is completely below the height of the net. The ball (a) completely crossed the net untouched or (b) is legally blocked by a player on team S.

Ruling: Legal—play continues in both situation (a) and (b)

The ball is below the height of the net. The libero's overhand finger action restriction applies only if the ball is attacked by a teammate while the ball is above the height of the net.

Situation #16: Rules 11-2-2 and 11-2-3: Time out prior to the match

Team S has only 5 players in the gym prior to the match. The coach of Team S requests a time out prior to the start of the match to allow time for the 6th player to arrive. At the end of the time out, the coach of Team S requests a second time out. During the second time out, the 6th player, who is listed on the roster, arrives and game 1 begins at the end of the second time out.

Ruling: Proper procedure—play continues

In the interest of fair play, every effort should be made to allow the match to be played. A team with fewer than 6 players should not have to forfeit the match until both time outs have been used.

Situation #17: Rule 4-1-6: Jewelry

One of the game officials notices a player is wearing jewelry during the pre-match warm-up. The official notifies the coach that the player is not allowed to continue warm-up until the jewelry is removed. No other penalty is assessed.

Ruling: Proper procedure

Comment: If the player is wearing jewelry while attempting to enter the game or while in the game, an unnecessary delay penalty is assessed.

Situation #18: Rules 9-8 and 10-4-2: Libero replacement during replay

During a tournament with pool play competition, two adjacent courts are being utilized for play. During a rally a ball rolls onto the court and the referee stops play and signals a “replay.” At the beginning of this rally Team R had a libero replacement. Prior to the referee’s signal to serve on the replay Team R has a replacement. The referee (a) blows the whistle and stops play for an illegal replacement; or (b) observes the replacement and signals for serve.

Ruling: Incorrect procedure in (a). Correct procedure in (b).

Comment: In (a) the first replacement legally took place during a dead ball. A new rally was started but ended in a replay, thus the ball is now dead after becoming live before the replay. With a live ball a new replacement could occur and in (a) the official should not have called an illegal replacement.

Situation #19: Rule 9-5-1: Blocking

The RF on Team R is attempting to block. She jumps too late and the ball crosses the net and is touched by the RF. The player’s contact was close to the top of the net, but she is not certain if the contact with the ball was above the height of the net. Thinking she was below the net the team plays the ball assuming they have two hits remaining. The coach is upset and expresses concern that the official should have signaled if he/she was going to view the play as a block or no block.

Ruling: Correct procedure by official.

Comment: The official’s responsibilities are to observe the play, determine if there is a block, and to continue to judge the remaining play action. It is not the responsibility of the official to informally communicate when there is a block. Teams and individual players must continue play based on what they believe has occurred.

Situation #20: Rule 12-2-6: Coaches Privilege to Stand

A school has officially designated co-head coaches. While attending the pre-match conference, they request that each coach be able to stand. The referee indicates only one “head” coach may stand under Rule 12-2-6 and that such coach shall be identified prior to the start of the match.

Ruling: Correct procedure.

Comment: The rule is intended for only one coach to stand. In this situation once the coach is identified to have the privilege to stand he/she shall maintain that privilege for the entire match providing conditions of the rule are met. The second coach may not stand.

Situation #21: Rule 4-2-6 and 12-2-1: Jewelry

During the pre-match conference the referee reminds the captains and head coaches that jewelry shall not be worn by the roster players and this includes warm-ups. As teams are warming up the referee observes player 7 wearing a necklace and player 12 wearing what appears to be a medical alert necklace. The referee tells player 7 to remove the necklace immediately and no further action is taken. Upon confirming the medical alert necklace with player 12 the referee instructs the player to tape the necklace to his/her body and the alert may be visible.

Ruling: Correct procedure in (a) and (b).

Comment: Jewelry is not permitted to be worn by a player including warm-ups. Preventative officiating shall be used during warm-ups with no penalty unless the player, teammates or coaches react to the official’s directions with unsporting conduct. If player 7 attempted to enter the game with jewelry, unnecessary delay would be assessed to the team. The medical alert necklace is not considered jewelry and may be worn, but must be taped to the body.

Situation #22: Rule 5-6-1, 2, & 3: Assistant Scorer (Libero Tracker)

The host school, Team S, does not use the libero during matches. The visiting school, Team R, plays matches utilizing the libero. Upon arrival at Team S's gym, the administration instructs Team R to position their libero tracker at the scorer's table as the assistant scorer.

Ruling: Correct procedure

Comment: The host school must designate an assistant scorer (libero tracker) for the match. The host school may provide the assistant scorer or designate a person from the visiting school as the assistant scorer. Whoever is designated as the assistant scorer must sit at the scorer's bench. Schools should communicate with each other prior to the match to avoid confusion with this situation. Note: The timer may serve as the assistant scorer.

Situation #23: Rule 8-1-2: Serve

Player #4 initiates her serve approach outside the service area markers. Player #4 is within the service zone when she contacts the ball.

Ruling: Legal serve. Play continues

Situation #24: Rule 5-4-1-Note

The umpire does not use a lineup card. The umpire removes the scorebook from the score table to check the player's lineup on the court at the start of the game.

Ruling: Incorrect Procedure

Comment: The umpire is required to maintain a lineup card. See page 65 of the Casebook/Manual for additional information. The scorebook is to remain at the scorer's table for the duration of the match.

Situation #25: Rule 8-1-4 and 8-1-5: Re-serve

Player # 2 serves a point. Player # 2 tosses the ball for serve and lets it fall to the floor and is granted a re-serve. On the re-serve, player # 2 serves a point. Libero # 7 replaces # 2 and serves a point. On the next serve, L # 7 tosses the ball for serve and lets it fall to the floor. The referee declares a re-serve.

Ruling: Correct procedure

Comment: Each player, including the libero, may have only one re-serve during a team's term of service.

Situation #26: Rule 10-4-1-c: Libero replacement/Libero serving

Libero #4 serves for #5. After L #4 scores a point, # 5 replaces #4 in the RB serving position. L #4 moves immediately to the LB position to replace # 8.

Ruling: Incorrect procedure

Comment: The libero must sit out at least one rally between libero replacements, unless the replacement is for the LF player moving to the RB service position.

Situation #27: Rule 4-1-4: Player equipment

Team A has elastic bands similar to hair control devices that are of soft material around their shoe laces. The elastic bands are being used to prevent the shoe laces from coming untied. The referee declares the elastic devices legal and play continues.

Ruling: Correct procedure

Comment: The elastic devices are of soft material, serve a purpose, do not increase a player's advantage, and do not present a safety concern.