

EXCEPTIONS TO NFHS RULES

2010 SEASON – (“Set” replaces the word “game”)

1. Non-disruptive coaching during live ball.

“ONE coach may stand behind the attack line during play to coach the team on the court without delaying the set or distracting the officials.”

Commentary: The OBSVCA has taken a more liberal stance than the NFHS/OHSAA in terms of circumstances in which coaches are permitted to be off the bench. In addition to the various circumstances specified in rule where a head coach may be standing, the OBSVCA allows 1) all coaches to be up and coaching the time on any dead ball as long as all coaches but one (for each team) are in the process of taking their seats when the R1 is ready to authorize service. These circumstances include asking for a set interruption specified in the rules such as a time-out, substitution, lineup check; checking set score; verifying number of time-outs used or number of subs used; greeting a player being subbed out of the set; and cheering for an exciting play). A bigger variance is OHSBVA allowing one coach (and ONLY ONE COACH) to be standing and coaching the team on a live ball without being involved in “disruptive coaching” **as long as the coach remains at least 6 feet back from the court and outside the sub zone.**

Restrictions: A standing coach is not permitted to 1) interfere with any official’s view of the court including that of the R2 and the bench-side line judge; 2) enter the substitution zone; or 3) yell at the referees.

Interpretation: This OHSBVA rule exception was intended to allow each head coach to either stand and coach on a dead ball or to assign this role to one or more assistant coaches as long as only one coach is standing to coach the team during each live ball. All other coaches than the coach who will remain standing must be in the act of talking their seats as the R1 is preparing to authorize service. A single coach being allowed to stand during play doesn’t imply being able to question judgment calls, addressing the R1 or blocking the view of the R2 or the bench-side line judge. And, unlike NFHS/OHSAA, issuance of a card to a standing coach for disruptive coaching does not remove the right of any coach of that team to stand and coach on a live ball for the remainder of the match. However, a card issued to a coach who is standing during a live play for disruptive coaching (including distracting the officials, delaying the set, inappropriately addressing the R1, refusal to respond to preventive efforts/warnings from the R2, other forms of unsporting conduct, etc.) is to be given to the head coach in order to help correct the disruptive coaching.

This approach avoids the issuance of yellow cards/warnings to a series of assistant coaches who then continue acts of disruptive coaching while standing on a live ball. Since cards given to the head coach would typically be progressive in nature, the head coach would logically be motivated to stop the inappropriate behavior of assistant coaches who are being disruptive (including addressing/yelling at the R1 or otherwise interfering with the officiating crew doing its job). Cards given to a coach or player on the bench are given to the specific coach or player committing the unsporting behavior except that a card will be given to the head coach if the bench personnel committing the unsporting conduct cannot be identified.

A card for disruptive coaching being given to the head coach rather than the specific assistant coach should avoid a situation where cards are being used to stop a team from having someone stand and coach on a live ball. By the same token, this also avoids having one assistant coach after another being warned and then carded before a real consequence (loss of rally) occurs. The R2 is the person a HEAD coach should turn to with questions or concerns but not to constantly question judgment calls. As with all other rulesets, for OHSBVA, judgment calls may not be questioned.

Coaches are allowed up on a dead ball to coach their teams, and one coach is allowed to stand on a live ball to coach the team. If a coach interferes with the R2 or line judge's view of the court or enters the sub zone, a verbal warning should be issued to correct the situation. Repetition of the action leading to the warning would result in a card being issued to the head coach. However, a standing coach yelling across the court at the R1 is unacceptable. A warning is appropriate unless the behavior is extreme enough to merit card issuance. If issued, the color of the card should be commensurate with the coach's action. On a controversial play, as long as the coaching staff is not ridiculous or disrespectful, the officials should be prepared to give a bit more leeway.

The OHSBVA is trying not to take away the privilege of having a coach able to stand and coach the team on a live ball. The current system that exists to address disruptive coaching can be used to have a yellow card/warning or red card/penalty issued to a standing coach be given to the head coach for failure to control the bench. The standing coach should remain no closer than 6 feet from the court.

The typical process to address disruptive coaching would be a verbal warning to try to stop disruptive behavior or unsporting conduct from continuing; issuance of a yellow card as a formal warning if the behavior continues. A red card/penalty is the next step in card progression. Removing a head coach (disqualification) should occur only if truly warranted. Referees are asked to exercise restraint in issuing cards, and head coaches are asked to avoid disruptive coaching and other actions/reactions that are unsporting in nature and require falling into a progressive penalty system.

Any action strong enough to merit a red card does not require an informal warning or a yellow card. The same is true of an action that is unsporting enough to require a disqualification. Warnings and a prevention approach should be used, if possible, to bring unacceptable behavior by a standing coach under control to avoid progressive penalties.

2. Switching Sides for Deciding Set

Language approved in Referendum: In the deciding set to 15 points, once a team reaches 8 points, the teams change courts without delay and the player positions remain the same. In a deciding set to 25 points, once a team reaches 13 points, the teams change courts without delay and the player positions remain the same.

Commentary: This rule exception needs clarification in terms of procedures and in light of the new change in NFHS/OHSAA rules that the OBSVCA accepted for 2008. This rule change requires deciding sets in a best-of-3-sets match to be played to 25 points (win by 2).

Interpretation: The rule exception above addresses court change occurring when one team reaches 8 points during a deciding set in a best-of-5 varsity match. All matches that are best of three sets are played to 25 points, and the court switch occurs at 13 points in the third set. The required procedure is that players should be directed to change courts around the standards (behind the R1 stand and outside the net pole on the R2's side) in response to the first referee's change of court signal. This provides for an orderly move to the other side and also lessens the likelihood of a player confrontation, which is more likely if players go under the net. If players make a mistake and go under the net, this should be handled in a teaching manner if at all possible rather than making players go back under the net and around the standards and thereby creating a delay in match flow. Bench personnel are expected to change benches expeditiously. There is no other logical switch point. If the change of courts does not occur at the correct time, it should occur immediately upon recognition. All points stand as played.

3. Changing the Line-up

Language approved in Referendum: Once the line-up sheet has been delivered to the R2 or scorer, no change in line-up may be authorized without a normal substitution. **Commentary:** This rule exception replaces the NFHS rule that allows a head coach to be able to replace a player in the starting lineup without penalty if the player is ill or injured. Remember that, for NFHS/OHSAA, no substitution is charged a team for a replacement for illness or injury of a starting player and that player is free to enter the set if the player is well enough to play or the injury situation is resolved. There is no restriction in terms of where the replaced player may enter into the service rotation. It is as if the player was never entered onto the starting lineup. However, for OHSBVA matches, the ability to make a substitution to start a set replaces the “ill or injured” rule.

Interpretation: Once the lineup has been delivered to the scorer or R2, no change in the team’s line-up may be authorized without a normal substitution with two exceptions. For the first set of a match, the lineups are due no later than two minutes before the conclusion of the timed warm-up period. Therefore, if a lineup has been submitted earlier than two minutes, the coach is permitted to make the change in the line-up without a substitution being required or rework the entire lineup. For subsequent sets, the timing for submitting the line-up is two minutes after the end of the previous set, meaning prior to one minute showing on the clock for the start of the next set. Same guidelines apply.

4. Libero Uniform

Language approved in Referendum: Uniform shorts MUST be of like color to team.

Commentary: This rule exception merits clarifying language in terms of the rest of the libero’s uniform.

Interpretation: If no libero shirt is available, a player may wear a pinnie, vest, or jacket over the regular uniform shirt. A libero may wear a pinnie/vest over his regular uniform jersey assuming the pinnie/vest meets the clearly contrasting requirement and, if so, the number does not have to be visible; however, the number must match the player’s regular roster number. The libero shirt, pinnie, vest or jacket may have velcro and may not have zippers or buttons. Unlike NFHS rules, a player’s libero uniform number must match the player’s “regular” uniform jersey number. There is no exception to the NFHS rule that allows a team to list two numbers for a player on the team roster: the player’s number when playing as a regular team member (same uniform as teammates) and a different number if the player plays as a libero. Example: 18/L6.

5. Libero Actions

Language approved in 2009 Referendum: The Libero may not block or attempt to block.

Commentary: This rule exception requires some additional commentary.

Interpretation: The libero serving referendum was approved after several years of libero serving for OHSAA matches per NFHS rules. The libero may serve for 2010. While the libero may not block or attempt to block, it should be noted that if the libero is near the net, the libero is not considered as attempting to block unless the libero is reaching higher than the net at the time the ball is being directed by the opponents toward the libero’s team’s side of the court and the ball is in the vicinity of the libero reaching higher than the net. Otherwise, the libero is not considered to be attempting to block.

6. Libero as Captain

Language approved in Referendum: The Libero may be team captain but not a floor captain.

7. Libero replacements

Language approved in Referendum: Libero replacements are unlimited, but there **MUST** be a rally between Libero replacements, and the libero must be replaced by the same player whom the libero replaced.

Commentary: This rule exception requires some clarification.

Interpretation: The penalties for an illegal libero replacement are tied to when the R1 has determined teams have had sufficient time to make a libero replacement or a request for substitution, time-out, lineup check, score check, etc. If a libero replacement is attempted once the R1's arm is up to authorize service, Unnecessary Delay (UD) is charged; if service has been authorized, Illegal Alignment (IA) is charged. All points scored by the offending team from the time an illegal replacement enters the set are removed unless the offended team wins a rally and has served before the error is discovered.

8. Contact with Net Supports (Poles) and Contact with First Referee Stand

Language approved in Referendum: Contact with the net support **IS** legal. Excessive or dangerous contact with the first referee stand is **NOT** legal.

Interpretation: Contact with the net support on either side of the court is legal regardless of the severity of the contact. Contact with the first referee stand is **NOT** legal if excessive. The R1 is required to judge whether the contact was excessive by how strongly the stand was hit. If the stand is hit so hard that it knocks the R1 practically off the stand, this may be a good an indicator that the contact may have been excessive. If the R1 is hit so hard, that the R1 can't keep in the play, contact may have been excessive. However, when in doubt, the R1 should allow play to continue.

9. The Ball

Language approved in Referendum: The ball shall be spherical with a laceless molded cover of 12 or more pieces (either white or multi-colored) of genuine or simulated smooth leather (not suede). It **MUST** have the NFHS authenticating mark.

Interpretation: For OHSBVA matches, Molten Pro-Touch volleyballs are used. Most have the NFHS authenticating stamp but some may not. Based on the results of the referendum allowing the Pro-Touch to be used, the Molten Pro-Touch volleyball is considered an acceptable ball with or without the stamp.

10. Attacking the Serve

Language approved in Referendum: A player **MAY** attack the opponent's service, even if the ball is completely above the height of the net, provided the player remains completely behind the attack line.

Interpretation: Initial clarification of this rule exception focused on the player attacking the serve when the serve was totally above the top of the net as long as the ball has completely passed the plane of the attack zone. The ball must be completely behind the attack line. The libero is not permitted to attack the serve when the ball is totally above net height even from the back zone. A serve that is attacked from entirely above the top of the net from on or inside the attack line does not become illegal until the ball completely crosses over the net to the opponent's side or is legally contacted by the opponents. This is true regardless of whether the attacker is a front-row player, a back-row player other than the libero, or the libero. An attack is not illegal, however, unless it results in a completed attack (ball legally blocked or attacked by opponents or crosses untouched to opponent's side of net).

11. Set and Match Totals

Each player may play in up to six (6) set per opponent per day. A player entering a seventh set is considered an illegal substitution. Match officials should enforce this rule at the time of the illegal substitution or whenever this is discovered. The maximum number of sets per season a player may play is 144 (6 times 24 matches).

Commentary: This rule exception requires some additional commentary. First, the maximum number of sets per season for a player is an OHSBVA administrative rule. The number of participations against a common opponent on a given play date means that, in non-tournament play, sub-varsity players may not play in more than 6 sets without penalty.

Interpretation: The penalty to be charged for the illegal participation in a seventh set is forfeiture of the set by the offending team at the time the illegal substitution occurs. However, if the substitution is caught before the player enters the set, it shall be denied and an Unnecessary Delay penalty should be charged rather than forfeiting the set. If the illegal substitution is found to be in the set with but a single rally played with the player in the set, the set is forfeited at that time with the offended team receiving enough points to win the set while the offending team gets to keep the point it has earned up to that moment. If the illegal participation does not result in forfeiture of the set or sets in question during the match, clear documentation of the excessive participation after the match would result in the match being forfeited in favor of the offended team.

12. Submission of Lineup: Interpretation of NFHS “Lineup to be submitted in proper serve order”

– Written lineup is to be submitted with player numbers in proper serving order along with the number of a libero if the option to play a libero is to be used for that set. The submission of the lineup in serving order was intended to help the scorer in recording the proper serving order on the score sheet. The first server should always be listed first on the lineup sheet, regardless of whether the team is serving or receiving. R2s should identify the serving and receiving teams when transferring this information to their lineup cards to then verify the team's proper lineup by floor position prior to the start of each set. The libero must still be designated and listed on the lineup sheet as an additional player.”

OHSBVA chose to modify the options for lineup submission, accepting submitting a lineup in proper serve order but asking the referees to facilitate getting the submitted lineup into the correct serve order, especially ensuring the first server for the receiving player is the one in right front.

SAMPLE LINEUP SHEET SHOWING PLAYERS IN SERVING ORDER IF CENTERVILLE IS THE SERVING OR RECEIVING:

Team: <u>Centerville HS Comets</u>	Game: <u>1</u>
Libero: <u>2</u>	CHECK ONE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Serve <input type="checkbox"/> Receive
SERVE ORDER	PLAYER NO.
<u>I</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>II</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>III</u>	<u>8 C</u>
<u>IV</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>V</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>VI</u>	<u>7</u>

SAMPLE LINEUP SHEET SHOWING PLAYERS IN FLOOR POSITIONS FOR TEAM THAT HAS THE FIRST SERVE:

NET

3	8c	6
5	7	4

From the lineup above, serving team's lineup would become 4-6-8c-3-5-7 and Libero number.

SAMPLE LINEUP SHEET SHOWING PLAYERS IN FLOOR POSITIONS FOR TEAM THAT WILL BE RECEIVING THE FIRST SERVE:

NET

8c	6	4
3	5	7

Circling the person whom the head coach believes will be the team's first server has no meaning to match officials. If the team has the first serve, it's the player in position I (RB). If the team is the receiving team to start the match, the team's first server is the player in position II (RF). IF a head coach submits a lineup as shown above, the referees should have the coach list the lineup in serve order alongside players shown in floor positions.

From the lineup above, receiving team's lineup would become 4-6-8c-3-5-7 and Libero number.

NFHS RULE CHANGE – NOT A RULE EXCEPTION

One Substitute in the Sub Zone at a Time and Libero Exchanges after a Substitution

If more than one substitution is to occur on a dead ball, the substitutions shall be made in succession. One pair of players after another and only one substitute shall be in the substitution zone at a time.

NEW: When a substitute enters the court and immediately moves off the court to be replaced by the libero, the player must not make this exchange near the sub zone. The libero exchange MUST occur where it is visible to the libero tracker.

Interpretation: The procedure of recording multiples substitutions becomes easier for the scorer to record. This will speed up the substitution process and assist in maintaining the tempo of play while enhancing the accuracy of recording substitutions on the part of the scorer and libero tracker. With the move to the libero serving, verifying the correct players are on the court is even more essential.

THIS IS NOT A RULE EXCEPTION. HOWEVER, THE MOVE TO THE LIBERO SERVING FOR OHSBVA MAKES THIS AN ESSENTIAL CHANGE. PROBLEMS IN PROPERLY RECORDING LIBERO REPLACEMENTS AT THE STATE TOURNAMENT CLEARLY CALL FOR A CHANGE IN PROTOCOL TO ENSURE THE LIBERO TRACKER HAS A CLEAR VIEW OF EVERY LIBERO EXCHANGE.