

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – 2010

- 1. BACK-ROW BLOCKER:** Does a back-row player who is near the net and reaching higher than the top of the net actually have to contact the ball or be contacted by the ball for a back-row blocking (BRB) fault to have occurred?

ANSWER: Yes, with the exception of when the back-row player is close enough to another blocker and is thus considered participating in a collective block if there's ball contact by anyone participating in the collective block in which case it's a back-row blocking fault.

CLARIFICATION: In each of the examples, the assumption is that a back-row player is near the net and reaching higher than the top of the net. When a back-row player touches or is touched by the ball coming from the opponent's side, not every contact is a back-row block. Blocking is an action that deflects the ball coming from the opponent's side. While passive contact or blocking action that deflects the ball WOULD result in a BRB fault, there are some contacts that would not be a BRB. For example, a one-armed swing is considered an attack and would not result in a BRB fault. If it resulted in a completed attack (crossing the net to the opponent's side or being legally contacted by the opponents) and the ball was totally above net height when contacted, it would be a back-row attack; otherwise the judgment point for an attack versus a block is the key. For an attack, we're looking at ball height and the back-row player's position in relationship to the attack line; for a block, we're looking at whether the back-row player is reaching above net height at point of contact and being close to the net.

In addition, when a player on the opposing team contacts the ball in such a manner that it floats back across the net and the back-row player has time to set/direct the ball to a teammate (such as with a jump-set near the net), this is considered directing the ball and not a back-row block. If the ball is directed to a teammate but drifts into the plane of the net, if the ball was totally above net height when the back-row player contacted it, it could result in a back-row block if a blocker legally contacts the ball before the back-row player's teammate touches it.

Referees should NOT make an automatic BRB call when a back-row player contacts or is contacted by the ball but, rather, must make a determination if any of the above exceptions to a BRB is present (such as attacking the ball or directing the ball). Remember that simultaneous contact by opponents above the net when the ball is in the plane of the net results in a BRB fault if either player is back row. In the rare instance of a joust between two back-row players, it's a double fault.

- 2. SIGNAL SEQUENCE:** Are officials in each region free to follow a region-wide policy of using the USAV signal sequence of whistle, signal which team won the rally and will serve next, then show fault, then show player number for net foul and centerline violation?

ANSWER: No. OHSBVA utilizes the same signal sequence as specified in NFHS rules and as practiced under OHSAA. The only "different" signals we use for OHSBVA matches would be the index finger toward the center line for a non-served ball that passes completely under the net to the opponent's side. The whistle occurs when the ball is no longer "on plane" and can't be brought back to the side of the team that contacted the ball. We also have additional "legal play" signals available to effectively communicate information about what the referees observed.

- 3. CARD ISSUED TO A STANDING COACH OR ANYONE ON THE BENCH:** Does the issuance of a sanction/card to a head coach or assistant coach who is standing to coach during play or anyone on the bench affect the ability of one coach at a time to stand and coach on a live ball or the ability of all coaches in terms of being able to stand and coach on a dead ball? Can an official tell a coach to sit down or risk a card or to sit down because a yellow or red card has been issued?

ANSWER: No. The right to stand and coach is not affected by card issuance. A card to the coaching staff for disruptive coaching typically goes to the head coach regardless of who is guilty of the disruptive coaching in order to ensure that a series of assistant coaches don't receive multiple yellow cards for the same type of disruptive behavior. Receiving a card is, of course, may lead to progressive sanctioning for a continuation of the behavior determined to be unsporting conduct. The key is for officials to use verbal warnings where possible and prevention on anything that appears to be approaching disruptive coaching and to issue cards as needed to control unacceptable behavior and to avoid the need for further carding.

- 4. STANDING BEHIND TEAM BENCH:** NFHS rules do not allow players to be standing behind the bench unless they are warming up. Does OHSBVA have a rules exception allowing teams to stand behind their team benches and feed subs into the game from behind the bench into the sub zone?

ANSWER: No.

- 5. NET BLOCK:** Is it legal for a player to do contacting a ball through the net that is totally on the opponent's side of the net to affect the opponent's ability to play the ball next.

ANSWER: No. A team is not permitted to do this, and coaches should not be teaching the net block since it is clearly unsporting in nature. A player is not permitted to affect play on a ball hit into the body of the net either by moving hands forward toward the net or reaching stepping to the side to do so. If so a ball contacts the defensive player through the net on a play like this, the referees should call a net fault. The exception would be where player action at the net is clearly in the form of self-protection (defensive player holds position at the net but puts hands in front of body – not reaching out toward net – to protect from getting hit through the net by a hard-hit ball that's being driven into the body of the net.

- 6. BALL PASSES OVER AN ANTENNA:** Is every ball that passes over an antenna considered an antenna fault?

ANSWER: Yes, with one exception. Playing rules require that a ball that Team A hits towards Team B's side of the court pass totally inside the antennas using the imaginary extension of the antennas to the ceiling to judge legality, but the ball isn't whistled dead until the ball passes completely to Team B's side or hits the antenna or any part of the court equipment outside the antenna. At that point, the line judges would signal the antenna fault, and the ball would be whistled as a fault. This means that a ball that is hit by Team A and that passes partially over the antenna without touching the antenna does not become a fault if the ball is next played legally by a Team A player and the ball is brought back over or outside the antenna without touching the antenna. This is not "pursuit" since the ball hasn't completely passed to the other team's side. And, if Team A attacks a ball that goes off a Team B blocker and over the antenna into Team B's free zone, the ball remains alive with three hits remaining.

- 7. TIME TO CONTACT SERVE:** Has the OHSBVA gone with 8 seconds for the server to contact the ball for service or are we staying at 5 seconds as in NFHS/OHSAA rules?

ANSWER: OHSBVA has stayed with 5 seconds. But, we don't play "gotcha" or look to make this call. If a server is starting to take too long to serve in the opinion of the officials (and there is nothing wrong with the R1 and R2 making eye contact to get on the same page since the R2 is typically in good position to warn/advise the coach of the problem), then there is nothing wrong with calling the captain over to address this in the interest of prevention. Can we then make the call? Sure. Should we? It depends. Stalling typically isn't coming from the serving team but it could occur after a long rally won by the serving team. Do not allow an advantage from stalling. Be proactive in preventing the need to make the call. Do NOT show a count off to the side. If the server is consistently close to a call or is clearly taking more than 5 seconds each time (even giving the player the benefit of the doubt in terms of how much time has transpired), deal with the situation. If you're aware that the server has the ball behind the end line and goes to a spot on the court to start service approach, allow the player to get there before authorizing serve. But, don't allow pacing to be negatively affected by slow serves. Keep reasonable match flow!

- 8. SCREENING:** I know screening the receiving team isn't legal but is done at higher levels of volleyball without resulting in it being warned or called. Are we to ignore all but the most blatant screening formations? What should we do to address screening before the issue is raised and if it is raised by the receiving team?

ANSWER: No. Screening is NOT to be ignored. OHSBVA screening concerns have been shared the last few years with coaches. We have an advisory regarding screening on our web site at www.ohioboysvolleyball.com. Some teams still set up in screening formations regardless of whether this is coach instructed or not. The R1 and R2 are expected to chart player positions prior to each rally, and both officials should be aware when the serving team appears to be in a possible formation where screening is occurring. Look at server position. Although it's a tough angle from the stand, look to see if there is stacking and positioning that cordons off a portion of the court. Teams are free to do this since there can be no screening fault until the ball passes over a screen, but if a team serves low over a group screen, this results in a possible screening fault. If the R1's scan identifies a potential screen, the R1 should call the captain to the stand prior to authorizing serve and – while showing the screening signal – discuss with the captain that the team is in a potential screening formation, that a screen may be called and that the team may prevent the screen by modifying court positions in relationship to each other. The R2 will see the signal and advise the affected coach of the reason for the discussion to allow the coach to instruct players to move in ways that might prevent a screening call. Regardless of player positioning, the ball needs to pass over the screen to be called and it needs to be low, fast, short or some combination for screening to have occurred. There is no automatic call here. See the screening document for more details.

- 9. FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF LINEUP:** Can a coach submit a lineup in either serve order or player floor positions? Can a coach circle the player whom the coach intends to be the team's first server?

ANSWER: Head coaches are asked to submit their lineups in serve order only. Referees are to facilitate if the lineup is submitted in player floor position. If a libero is to be used, the libero's number must appear on the lineup form. The referees are responsible for ensuring that the lineup is translated as needed into serve order on the scoresheet and libero tracking sheet. Circling a player number has no meaning in determining serve order.

10. PURSUIT: Is OHSBVA allowing pursuit if there is “sufficient space” on both sides of the court (outside R1 stand, outside post on R2’s side)?

ANSWER: No. For a variety of reasons, OHSBVA has chosen to follow NFHS rules and is not allowing pursuit. However, referees have to be aware that a ball hit over or outside the antenna on a block, first contact or second contact is not dead until the ball passes completely beyond the plane of the net (i.e., no part of the ball is still “on plane”) or contacts the antenna (antenna fault call). Player position outside the court in attempting to make a save is irrelevant. Only the position of the ball is at issue. A player could theoretically reach a ball over an antenna and bring the ball back to his side if there is no contact (player or ball) with the antenna, no other fault occurs and the team has a contact remaining.

11. DISQUALIFICATION OF PLAYER OR COACH: What happens if a referee disqualifies a player or a coach?

ANSWER: This should occur only if truly merited. Referees are expected to remain sufficiently detached to not overreact and to not react emotionally to coach or player actions unless the coach or player actions truly rise to the level of disqualification. IF disqualification is necessary, the officials should take whatever time is needed to ensure proper recording of the disqualification by the scorer, should determine (if it’s a player who is disqualified) whether there is adult supervision available before having the player leave the playing area or, if not, ensure the player sits on the bench for the remainder of the match without engaging in additional unsporting conduct at the risk of match forfeiture, should determine (if it’s the head coach who is disqualified) whether there is another coach able to step in to finish the match and then assure that the coach leaves the facility at the risk of forfeiture of the match for failure to do so or for continued unsporting conduct after disqualification.

The match officials will need to file an Incident Report (form and instructions available on www.ohioboysvolleyball.com), and an OHSBVA review will occur before determination of the appropriate penalty which could be a suspension of up to two matches or commensurate with the nature of the incident. Due process will be afforded the affected player or coach by the OHSBVA.

12. SUBSTITUTION TO START MATCH: Is a substitution to start the match legal or is a coach only able to put in another player for a player who is injured or becomes ill.

ANSWER: This is an OHSBVA rules exception. Once a lineup sheet has been delivered to the scorer AND accepted by the referees, no change in line-up may be authorized without a normal substitution. This is a rules exception from NFHS/OHSAA where a head coach is only able to replace a player in the starting lineup without penalty if the player is ill or injured. The OHSBVA has chosen a regular substitution as the way to resolve a lineup error rather than a penalty/point. If a player is listed in the starting lineup, the deadline for lineup submission has passed, and the coach becomes aware that the player is ill or injured, a substitution may be used. The injured/ill player who recovers may enter the game only in the position initially listed on the lineup. This avoids possible lineup manipulation. The head coach is not able to change the lineup once the deadline for lineup submission has passed. Therefore, if the coach submits the lineup early, the key is the timing in which the coach asks for the lineup back to make a change.

13. SUBSTITUTION DURING A TIME-OUT: Do OHSBVA rules allow a substitution to occur during a time-out?

ANSWER: Yes. This is not an exception to NFHS/OHSAA rules. However, there is a logical protocol to be followed to ensure that everyone with a need to know that a substitution has occurred is aware of it. First, we have to remember that one and only one request for substitution may be made by a team on the same dead ball. Therefore, the only time a substitution request may be made during a time-out is if that team didn't make a substitution request directly prior to the time-out since a second request would essentially be denied without penalty. Let's say a substitution request is made appropriately during a time-out either by the head coach or a player communicating the intention to substitute. The R2 would share the player number with the officials' table but, as the time-out is ending, and the R2 is set to turn the court back over to the R1, the R2 should show the substitution signal, indicate the numbers of the player(s) entering the court and the player(s) exiting the court so that the R1 and the opposing coach/team are aware. Then, the R2 would authorize a libero replacement to occur and finally get back into position on the receiving team's side and turn the court back to the R1.

14. REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION OF THE R1'S DECISION ON THE LAST RALLY: How does a head coach request reconsideration of a first referee's decision on the preceding rally?

ANSWER: To address a ruling on the last rally, there is no clearly identified "protest" rule in current NFHS rules for OHSBVA to rely upon. For reconsideration of a non-judgment call, the head coach must request a time-out and should advise the R2 that this time-out is being requested to ask the R1 to reconsider a rule decision (including issuance of a penalty) made on the last rally. By logical implication, a decision made by the R2 (which the R1 has accepted) could also be the subject for reconsideration. Whether a scorekeeping situation is also included is unclear from the OHSBVA Rulebook and Casebook. Regardless, match officials are expected to do what is necessary to give fair consideration of a non-judgment call question raised by a coach including attempting to verify or validate game score. However, the R2 should not permit a time-out to be requested for purposes of questioning something that is SOLELY a judgment call.

Unfortunately, there is lack of clarity regarding whether the head coach, as the time-out is requested, is required to deal with the R2 as part of the process. OHSBVA has determined that it is reasonable to have the head coach inform the R2 of his/her intent to call a time-out for reconsideration of a ruling. This enables the R2 to determine whether the coach is actually questioning a ruling (rule interpretation, application of correct rule, application of correct penalty) or a judgment call. There is no provision to call a time-out to question a judgment call. In fact, the rules specify that coaches are not permitted to question judgment calls and that it is considered unsporting conduct to continue to do so. To avoid situations where a head coach calls a time-out and starts across the court without first dealing with the R2, the head coach will be required to indicate at the point the time-out is called that the time-out is to ask for reconsideration of a decision on the last rally. If the decision in question involves other than the last rally, the head coach has waited too long to ask for reconsideration of a ruling. See the addenda section at the end of this document for more details.

15. INADVERTENT WHISTLE: Does an inadvertent horn or whistle always require a replay?

ANSWER: NO. Only if, in the judgment of the R1 with appropriate consultation as needed with the R2, the horn or whistle affected play will a replay be in order. If the R2 whistles illegal alignment on the receiving team upon service contact, the serve does not cross above the net and between the antennas AND the R2 was not correct because the receiving team was in proper position, the serving team loses the rally. There is no replay for the inadvertent whistle. An inadvertent whistle can be a whistle that shouldn't have occurred at all or a whistle that was premature. A premature whistle could occur when the R1 whistles a team for a back-row attack only to learn that the player was front row. Unless the ball was landing on the court (or out of bounds) with no one in a position to make a play on the ball or in the act of making a play on the ball, a replay would be in order. Nothing is automatic. Common sense drives the right answer.

16. LIBERO SERVING: Will the OHSBVA be allowing the libero to serve this season?

ANSWER: YES. Serving will match the NFHS/OHSAA model with the libero allowed to serve in one position in the service rotation. Scorers and libero trackers will both be expected to track this which implies a lot more training for both than most schools provide.

17. ENSURING CORRECT PLAYER REPLACES THE LIBERO: Who is responsible for ensuring that the correct player replaces the libero and that players involved in a libero exchange (libero/regular player) take the proper court position?

ANSWER: Well, obviously, the players involved and their coaches as well as the libero tracker. Both the R1 and R2 are expected to maintain a broad scan to pick up libero exchanges and to ensure that 1) the player replacing the libero is the proper person (an actively involved and properly trained libero tracker is very important on this one); 2) that the player replacing the libero moves into the LF and not CF if the libero was in LB immediately prior to his team winning the rally or the proper position in the back row if the coach is pulling the libero for some reason; and that 3) the libero's position does not rotate to the LF. To do this, some officials chart back row and when the lead number (or "L") in their memorized back row is the libero, they know that the libero has to come out of the game when his team wins the next rally. OHSAA rules affirm the R2's responsibility for ensuring that replacements are legal.

18. ARRIVAL OF MATCH OFFICIALS AND DIVIDING TASKS: When are referees expected to arrive and how should the pre-match tasks be split?

ANSWER: Referees are expected to arrive no later than 30 minutes before the start of the first match and preferably 45 minutes to an hour where possible. This is the minimum time to be at the school ready to do the pre-match tasks which should be split between the two officials. This means that both officials are expected to be appropriately dressed with the equipment required to conduct the match including, but not limited to, a whistle/lanyard, sanction cards, net measuring device, ball gauge, ball pump and flags. Referees who show up late are also known to show up expecting their partner (who makes the same amount of money) to have done the net check, antenna check, ball check, equipment safety check, etc. and to not do anything. Referees who do not share pre-match tasks need to be reported to the match assigner and risk not receiving matches in the future.

19. ROLE OF ASSISTANT COACHES: With the changes to NFHS rules that allow an assistant coach to ask for various types of information, what are the implications for OHSBVA matches and what are the limitations to the role an assistant coach?

ANSWER: When the role of the assistant coach is expanded in NFHS/OHSAA rules, the role automatically expands for OHSBVA in the absence of a rule exception. It's important to clarify how changes to Rule 12 (Conduct), Section 1, Article 5 apply to OHSBVA matches. Article 5 indicates that assistant coaches shall remain seated on the bench during a set except to ask the second referee, during a dead-ball situation, to review the accuracy of the score, verify the number of time-outs used, the serving order of his/her team, or to verify the proper server for the opponent as well as stand at the bench to greet a replaced player (not a change), confer with players during time-outs (not a change and standing/coaching permitted), spontaneously react to an outstanding play by a member(s) of their own team (we also allow standing/cheering for any exciting play) and to attend to an injured player with permission. The NFHS inadvertently left out an assistant coach requesting number of substitutions used (this will be corrected in next year's rules), but the OHSBVA accepts this and the rest of the actions listed above except to note that, for OHSBVA matches, 1) an assistant coach could be the single coach standing and coaching on a live ball and 2) all coaches may stand and coach on a dead ball as long as all but one of them are in the process of being seated as the R1 prepares to authorize service (arm out – hopefully on the correct side ☺).

These actions are also things head coaches may do/request pursuant to the usual stipulations that they not occur too frequently (requests for lineup check, for example) and not be allowed to delay/disrupt the match.

However, the key issues for assistant coaches for OHSBVA matches differ in large measure from those experienced during OHSAA matches insofar as NFHS rules do not permit an assistant coach to coach the team from other than a sitting position except during a time-out. This is handled inconsistently by referees, is largely ignored by head coaches in terms of controlling their assistant coaches and will be addressed by the OHSAA for next season. The key issues for assistant coaches in OHSBVA matches include addressing the referees regarding their decisions (judgment calls), which is something they are not permitted to do by rule (being limited to the actions listed above) as well as head coaches basically condoning or at least not controlling their assistant coaches in terms of addressing the referees. To some degree, assistant coaches act as if they are assistant coaches for a college match where they are allowed to address the referees.

20. ONE SUB AT A TIME IN THE SUB ZONE: Do this year's NFHS/OHSAA procedural changes limiting teams to one substitute in the sub zone at a time apply to OHSBVA?

ANSWER: Yes. If more than one substitution is to be made, the substitutions shall be made in succession, one pair of players after another (substitute and outgoing player) with only one substitute in the substitution zone at a time. When more than one substitution is requested, the incoming substitutes must be ready to enter the substitution zone once the preceding substitute has been released to enter the court.

21. POSITION OF STANDING COACH: How far back from the court does the standing coach have to be during play?

ANSWER: Six feet away from the near sideline and not blocking the R2's view of the court and the bench-side line judge. The standing coach is not allowed to use the position standing close to the court to be disruptive (e.g., addressing comments to the referees about judgment calls), and an assistant coach is not permitted to address the referees regarding their decisions period. Actually, the head coach is also not allowed to do so but more leeway is given as long as the coach does NOT address the R1 across the court, limits the frequency of questions that involve judgment calls and isn't ridiculous.

22. LIBERO SERVING: What are the implications for OHSBVA matches in terms of the libero being able to serve?

ANSWER: There are many implications, especially the need for schools/teams to ensure they have a properly trained libero tracker who knows the rules associated with the libero serving and who can quickly provide information to the R2 to allow proper administration of penalties if the libero attempts to serve in a second position in the serve order in a given set.

There are no differences for OHSBVA regarding how libero serving should occur than the current system in place for NFHS/OHSAA, including how the scoresheet and libero tracking sheets are to be marked. Each set and for each team, upon the first service contact by a libero, both the scorer and the libero tracker place a triangle around the serve order/rotation position to mark the only place in the serve order from which the libero can serve during this set. The scorer also records the result of each libero serve within a triangle. Both the scorer and libero tracker are responsible for knowing the timing with which the R2 should be informed that the libero is serving or preparing to serve illegally in a second spot in the serve order in the same set.

The timing of notification is important so it needs to occur as the libero prepares to serve in a second position in the serve order. This is because the correction differs depending upon whether the libero moved from the bench to try to serve or whether the libero moved from an on-court back-row position into the right-back position to serve. If the libero comes off the bench after sitting out a rally, the replacement of the player who would serve the next rally is legal but the libero can't serve in the second position. This is an illegal alignment/wrong server which would be permitted and the fault then whistled.

However, the libero is only entitled to move from a back-row position to the right back position IF he is next able to legally serve the next rally. Therefore, this would be an illegal libero replacement which is penalized immediately BEFORE the R1 authorizes service with an unnecessary delay and a time-out (assuming the team hasn't used both time-outs). If the R1 authorizes service, the UD automatically becomes a wrong server/illegal alignment fault with loss of rally. If schools do not properly train their libero trackers AND scorers, problems and delays to fix libero and scoring problems are inevitable.

23. USE OF PLAYERS AS LINE JUDGES: May players be used as line judge issues and, if so, does the visiting coach have to agree?

ANSWER: Players are permitted to serve as line judges only in certain circumstances and, where this occurs, there are some requirements that have to be met. The only players eligible to serve as line judges are non-rostered players for the match in question (not eligible to play in the match in question). So, while no one on the roster of the team that will be playing the match may be a line judge, a JV player could serve as a line judge for the Varsity match. One additional requirement is that, to serve as a line judge, a player is not permitted to wear a numbered team jersey. The visiting team coach does NOT need to approve the use of players as line judges but if, in the opinion of the R1, a line judge is not handling his responsibility properly, the LJ can be replaced.

This issue has to be addressed because some schools/coaches do not require parents to serve as line judges and/or do not properly train parents effectively. In some instances, trained parents aren't available while, in others, schools choose to use players as line judges because these players may have more of a feel for the game itself, understand the angles" and may have better visual acuity. Regardless, the R1 is responsible for determining whether line judges are paying attention and fulfilling their responsibilities sufficiently well enough or whether the LJ needs to be replaced. In general, line judges should not be replaced during the middle of a set unless an extenuating circumstance arises that prohibits someone from finishing a set (becoming ill or indisposed, etc).

24. WARM-UP REQUIREMENTS: What restrictions exist in terms of what players, non-players and coaches are permitted to wear while participating in warm-ups?

ANSWER: The NFHS stressed risk minimization as a point of emphasis for 2008-09. A key aspect of risk management is being aware that hard floors and flying volleyballs create possible hazards for everyone and at all times. Warm-ups are an important time for teams where there are a variety of individuals on the court, either participating in the warm-up or assisting with it. Coaches are urged to be aware of and to limit non-participants (non-rostered individuals for a given match) who are on the court during the warm-up. When non-participants come out of the stands to help retrieve balls as well as members of the Freshmen, JV or Varsity teams), we now have some special challenges in terms of court safety. For the 2009 season, the OBSCVA adopted the same expectations for OHSBVA matches as the NFHS has articulated. There is no change for the 2010 season.

The OHSBVA believes referees are responsible for the coaches, players and team managers, and they have control by rule over players' dress and behavior, especially where jewelry and illegal equipment are concerned. Referees can have the coach intervene to ensure removal of jewelry or illegal equipment during the warm-up, with possible penalties. However, the individual school is responsible for those non-playing individuals who are on the floor during warm-ups, and they bear the liability for anything that occurs, not the officials.

Head coaches must not allow non-players on the court who will be actively participating in the warm-ups but will do so in unsafe footwear (such as socks, bare feet, flip-flops or crocs) or wearing electronic devices or who have casts on or are on crutches. This includes non-playing members of the team such as Freshmen/JV/Varsity players who are not playing in this match since this exposes these individuals to unnecessary risk. While the motivation of these “helpers” is certainly positive, the head coach can reduce the risk by asking them to put on proper footwear (athletic shoes) and remove electronics such as I-pods and other music devices.

Risk minimization during a team warm-up period for OHSBVA matches requires all personnel “actively conducting” the warm-up to be properly attired for the duties required. Special attention should be given to ensure that auxiliary personnel are wearing appropriate footwear for active participation and that electronic devices, cell phones, I-Pods, other music devices are not being used. Given that prior to each match, head coaches and captains verify that all players are legally equipped and properly attired, it is reasonable to expect all players to be wearing legal uniforms and equipment during warm-ups and no jewelry or illegal equipment.

While coaches themselves are not bound by jewelry rules while participating in warm-ups, OHSBVA follows NFHS rules in terms of footwear and electronics (no electronics other than approved medical devices, no players with casts or on crutches can be tossing balls, retrieving balls, etc.). Athletic shoes or flat shoes are required for coaching staff, and athletic shoes are required for all others participating in the warm-up. High heels, flip flops, bare feet or socks, crocs, and open- toed shoes are not acceptable for anyone actively participating in warm-ups. However, referees are not to be concerned with jewelry for adults, only for players.

Summary: The OHSBVA expects coaches to step up to their responsibilities and make this a non-issue during warm-ups. However, the OHSBVA also expects match officials to address these issues when coaches fail to do so. We do not want OHSBVA referees, coaches or schools having to defend a law suit over someone else's negligence or clumsiness. If a coach is wearing high heels in conducting the warm-up, high heels on any gym surface could be dangerous and, in some cases could damage the gym floor. Once the officials arrive at the site, NO electronic devices (e.g.: I-pods, cell phones, digital cameras, etc.) should be permitted by any players, coaches or officiating personnel, except for real emergencies.