

# OHSBVA VOLLEYBALL SITUATIONS & RULINGS

The situations in this book are designated as an official supplement to the OHSBVA Rules Book. Interpretations are based on the 2010 OHSBVA Rules Book. **Note:** When used, Team S is the serving team and Team R is the receiving team. Unless otherwise specified, “coach” means “head coach.”

## **PART 1 Interpretations of the 2009–10 Revisions**

**SITUATION 1:** A player enters the set wearing: (a) hair tied back with a 2-inch wide ribbon; (b) metal barrette covered with tape; (c) hair tied back with a bandanna folded so it is only 2 inches wide; (d) unadorned bobby pin 2 inches in length. **RULING:** (a), (c) and (d) legal; (b) illegal equipment.

**COMMENT:** Unnecessary delay assessed and the barrette must be removed. OHSBVA doesn't have problems with guys wearing barrettes, to date, so the only application above that is of concern involves bandannas and whether they are used as a head band (legal) or head covering/do-rag (illegal equipment).

**SITUATION 2:** The first referee shall not permit a player to continue to play if the player has: (a) an excessive amount of blood on the uniform; (b) several wet spots of blood on the uniform; (c) a few dried spots of blood on the uniform. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) correct procedure. **COMMENT:** In (a), (b) and (c), the uniform must be cleaned or changed before the player can remain in/re-enter the match. This is treated as an injury situation for OHSBVA, so 30 seconds are given to take care of the situation. If additional time is needed, the team is able to sub for the player or replace the player (if a libero replacement would buy additional time) and the head coach may choose to use a time-out. The referees should ensure that the evaluation of player condition (blood related) is timed. Timing does not have to start until assistance reaches the player if the situation involves blood on the player's body. This is the same as the handling of any other injury situation. However, if time is needed to check the floor, have players check themselves, check the ball and ensure any floor/ball cleanup, it may be possible for the player to be able to remain in the set. Common sense should prevail.

**SITUATION 3:** During play, the second referee makes several ball-handling calls. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Ball-handling calls are determined by the first referee except when they are clearly out of view of the first referee. The referees shall discuss any discrepancies in private. The key is having a good pre-match in which the R1 expresses his/her preferences to the R2 in terms of partner help including ball-handling out of view of the R1 where the R2 should be asked to provide information via an informal signal but not make the ball-handling call unless 100% sure that a fault has occurred AND the R1 doesn't scan for help. The R2 should step out and become very visible with this help. Such help demonstrates that the officials are partnering to get calls right. The R2 is NOT free to simply make ball-handling calls for the R1 however.

**SITUATION 4:** During the match, the second referee has the duty to manage illegal replacements.

**RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The R2 works with the libero tracker to identify an illegal libero replacement, and the R2 is responsible for taking the proper steps to correct the problem.

**SITUATION 5:** During the second hit, the CB on Team S contacts the ball; (a) with both hands, while his back is to the net; (b) while extending his left foot and the ball rebounds off his shin and goes over the net; (c) with one hand above the head to set the ball. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal unless the first referee observes prolonged or multiple contact. **COMMENT:** Referees are required to see a fault before one is called, and there should be no pre-disposition that a fault will occur in terms of anticipating the ball will hit the floor (allowing for balls bouncing off a foot or a player's body below the waist). There is no body position that would automatically result in a contact being illegal; one-hand sets that are legal (ball doesn't stay on the hand longer than a typical two-hand set) are not unusual at the higher levels of play.

**SITUATION 6:** During the second hit, the CB on Team S contacts the ball; (a) with his foot, keeping the ball in play; (b) with his hip; (c) with his kneepad when there is prolonged contact. The referees allow play to continue. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal, play continues; (c) illegal, prolonged contact, loss of rally/point.

**SITUATION 7:** During the first team hit, the CB dives to the floor to save a ball which (a) hits his arm and knee; (b) deflects from his shoulder, arm and foot; (c) deflects from his fist up in the air and then he sets the ball to another player; (d) deflects from his knee to shoulder. **RULING:** (a) (b) and (d) legal, play continues, one attempt to play the ball; (c) illegal, successive contacts, two attempts to play the ball. For OHSBVA, there are two elements that would result in a two-hit call when only one effort is made on the first ball. If the player dives for the ball and gets a hand under it and the ball pops up into the air then lands on the player, the issues of time and distance would result in a 2-hit call despite no second effort by the player to play the ball.

**SITUATION 8:** After being warned, Team S continues to huddle after each point, delaying the set. **RULING:** Unnecessary delay; Team S is charged a time-out and given the 60 seconds. **COMMENT:** If s Team S has used its allotted time-outs, point/loss of rally.

**SITUATION 9:** The coach signals for substitution. The second referee recognizes the request. Then the coach: (a) proceeds to the second referee and gives the numbers of the substitutes and the players to be replaced; (b) immediately sits down; (c) proceeds to the sideline and converses with the substitute during dead ball outside the substitution zone; (d) remains at the officials table and converses with the officials. **RULING:** (a) improper substitution procedure; (b) and (c) proper procedure; and (d) illegal substitution, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** The head coach may instruct players during a dead ball from the replacement zone. With the new substitution procedure, coaches should be educated in the proper procedures. Only the head coach may request the sub except for a substitution request that comes from a player entering the sub zone. If a second sub is to be made in succession, the second substitute should be positioned outside the sub zone ready to step in as soon as the first substitution is processed. Keep coaches out of the sub zone as a matter of prevention!

**SITUATION 10:** Player A on the receiving team approaches the substitution zone as a substitute. The second referee sees Player A approaching and (a) blows the whistle before Player A gets to the attack line extended; (b) blows the whistle when the player enters the substitution zone. **RULING:** (a) incorrect procedure; (b) correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Substitutes should be in the substitution zone when they are recognized. This allows the head coach to pull back a sub at the last minute. However, if the head coach visually or verbally requests a substitution, the substitute(s) need to be moving toward the sub zone quickly or the sub request should be denied and if the sub request is whistled and the substitution isn't timely completed, the coach should be warned that a repeat of this situation will result in an unnecessary delay being charged and the sub denied until the next live ball.

**SITUATION 11:** During a multiple substitution, (a) substitutes enter the substitution zone one at a time and R2 authorizes entry; (b) one substitute enters but the second substitute is still at the end of the bench removing his warm-ups; (c) two substitutes have entered, R2 authorizes entry and coach requests a third substitute, R2 authorizes substitution after the R2 has given the court back to R1. **RULING:** (a) correct procedure; (b) incorrect procedure, deny second substitute; (c) incorrect procedure, deny third substitute. **COMMENT:** Multiple substitutes shall enter the substitution without delay once preceding substitute has been released by the R2 to enter the court.

**SITUATION 12:** During the exchange, a substitute enters the court between the attack line and end line. **RULING:** Improper substitution request. **COMMENT:** The second referee will direct players to make the exchange between the attack line and the net. Should this improper substitution become excessive or delay progress, an unnecessary delay shall be called.

**SITUATION 13:** When two substitutions are requested, the first substitute reports directly to the substitution zone, while the second substitute reports and waits outside the zone until the first substitute enters the court. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** This is exactly how multiple substitutions should occur. Second and/or multiple subs should wait until the previous substitute is authorized to enter the court.

**SITUATION 14:** One substitute enters the substitution zone followed by: (a) another substitute who enters after the R2 authorizes the first substitute to enter court; (b) by the coach who escorts the second substitute into the substitution zone to report his number to R2; (c) the second substitute who is in the substitution zone is authorized to enter but remains in the zone to talk with his coach. **RULING:** (a) correct procedure; (b) and (c) illegal substitution, unnecessary delay.

**SITUATION 15:** The assistant coach from Team S enters the court to meet with the team: (a) during a time-out; (b) between games. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal. **COMMENT:** This does not have meaning in the context of what assistant coaches are allowed to do in OHSBVA matches which includes being able to stand and coach on a dead ball (any and all assistant coaches) and for one coach, and only one coach, to stand on a live ball to coach (can be the assistant coach or alternating coaches) as long as disruptive coaching isn't occurring.

**SITUATION 16:** During live play, the head coach of Team R is standing in the libero replacement zone on the sideline of the court providing instruction to his/her players. **RULING:** Illegal. **COMMENT:** Coach must be six feet from sideline in replacement zone during play for NFHS, and this is the distance from the court that will be required for the standing coach for OHSBVA.

**SITUATION 17:** When the referees arrive at the site, they notice that due to the small gymnasium there will not be six or more feet between the team bench and the sideline. The referees agree at the pre-match conference that the head coaches will be instructed that they may stand under Rule 12-2-6 but must stay in the replacement zone in front of their team bench and not get closer to the court than four feet. Further, the R2 has the priority at all times for floor position to be certain he/she and the line judges have a clear field of vision to observe play and each other and so player may have access to all playable area without interference. If the R2 directs the head coach to move back or down the area in front of the team bench for observation of play or keeping the area clear for the players, the coach must comply with the R2's directions. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Rule 12-2-6 is providing the head coach the privilege to stand during the set to coach his/her players. However, the coach standing does not take priority over the players being able to use all playable area to play the ball or over the R2 and/or line judge (bench side) being able to maintain a clear line of sight to observe play. Coaches must follow the directives of the officials if the physical layout of the facility does not permit six feet or more of unobstructed area around the court.

## **PART 2**

### **Rule 1 The Game**

#### **LENGTH OF MATCH**

**1.2.3 SITUATION:** The match format for a varsity tournament may be best of three or best of five, based on the OBSVCA allowing both options. The tournament host determines that the third game in best of three will be played to 15 points, win by 2. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The format for a best-of-three match is 25-25-25. For OHSBVA matches, all third games are always to 25 points.

#### **PRE-MATCH CONFERENCE**

**1.6.2 SITUATION:** At the pre-match conference, the assistant coach represents Team A. **RULING:** Illegal procedure. **COMMENT:** The pre-match conference shall be conducted with the head coach and the captain(s) from each team. If, for a reason determined to be legitimate, the head coach is temporarily unavailable, unless this can be resolved with a short wait, the assistant coach IS permitted to attend instead of the head coach without the assistant coach automatically being considered the head coach for the match. If the acknowledged head coach is able to arrive during the match, with knowledge and consent of the R1, the "head coach" may assume head coach duties including serving as the only coach who may address the referees.

#### **COIN TOSS**

**1.6.3 SITUATION A:** During the pre-match coin toss, the visiting team calls the toss and wins and: (a) chooses to serve, (b) chooses playing area. **RULING:** (a) Correct procedure, (b) Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Upon entering the facility, prior to the coin toss, the home team selects its court/bench.

**1.6.3 SITUATION B:** Team A wins the coin toss and chooses to defer to the opponents. Team B's captain chooses to receive. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The team that wins the coin toss must choose either serve or receive to start the match or serve, receive or side/court in terms of a deciding game coin toss.

**1.6.4 SITUATION:** During the coin toss prior to a deciding game of a match, the home team calls the toss, wins and: (a) chooses playing area, (b) chooses to serve or receive. **RULING:** (a) and (b) are both legal. Both choices are available for a deciding set. **COMMENT:** The rule is meant to avoid the same team calling the coin toss for a deciding set that called the initial toss. This procedure is followed for all matches.

### **SUSPENDED PLAY/FORFEIT**

**1.7.1 SITUATION:** A long rally is interrupted when: (a) the net cable breaks; (b) the gym lights go out; (c) a fire alarm sounds; (d) a light fixture shatters. **RULING:** The set is suspended and resumes with a replay as soon as the situation is corrected, or is rescheduled for another time. **COMMENT:** Unusual situations must be met with common sense so both teams remain relaxed and neither suffers a disadvantage. State associations may have a specific policy regarding suspended play.

**1.7.4 SITUATION:** Team B arrives with only five players at match time. The coach calls a time-out to allow more time to complete the team. The first referee awards the time-out and, when no additional player arrives, declares a forfeit and begins the clock for the next set. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A time-out (both time-outs) may be granted prior to the start of a set. Every effort should be made to have the set and match played before declaring a forfeit. Once the two time-outs are used, set No. 1 is declared a forfeit. Three minutes are then given before declaring a forfeit for set No. 2 if Team B is still incomplete. If it is a best 3-of-5 match, another three minutes are given before the match is declared a forfeit if a sixth player does not arrive by the start of set No. 3. Time-outs could also be called prior to each set before a forfeit is declared.

### **MUSIC/SOUND EFFECTS/ARTIFICIAL NOISEMAKERS**

**1.8 SITUATION:** In (a), the band from the home team is playing during a live ball; (b) the electronic scoreboard is playing sound effects just before an opponent is attempting to serve; (c) fans from the visiting team are using artificial noisemakers during an opponent's serve attempt; or (d) the home team cheerleaders are using their megaphones to bang on the floor each time an opponent contacts the ball during play. **RULING:** All situations are prohibited by rule. **COMMENT:** The referees should notify game management in (a) to instruct the band to only play during the permitted times; in (b) to instruct the scoreboard operator to cease the prohibited acts; in (c) to have a public-address announcement made stating that the use of any artificial noisemakers is prohibited at all time; and (d) advise the cheerleaders that megaphones are permitted provided they are only used as intended. In all situations, if the problem continues it may result in an unsporting conduct call being assessed to the team supporter(s) and charged to the head coach.

## **Rule 2      The Court**

### **COURT MARKINGS**

**2.1.1 SITUATION:** The court at the playing site is marked in meters rather than feet. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** These measurements are, however, not interchangeable. There is no preference for either. It should be noted that metric courts are slightly smaller.

**2.1.4 SITUATION:** Prior to the match, the first referee notices that the center line is continuous but shadowed through the school mascot. The first referee conducts the match without taping the line over the mascot. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The center line may be a solid or shadowed 2-inch line.

**2.1.5 SITUATION:** A new high school has been built and the contractor is preparing to paint the volleyball court markings. The measurement being used for the attack line is 2 inches wide with the midpoint of the attack line 10 feet from the midpoint of the center line. **RULING:** Correct.

**2.1.7 SITUATION:** A substitute attempts to enter the substitution zone (a) 3 feet from the sideline; (b) 5 feet from the sideline. The second referee recognizes the substitution with a whistle and signal. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** There is no limit to the depth of the substitution zone. As long as the substitute crosses the 10-foot line extension and is between the scorer's table and the sideline, the substitute has entered the substitution zone. However, substitutes must enter the sub zone from the team's bench and not from behind the team's bench closest to the officials' table.

## **OVERHEAD OBSTRUCTIONS**

**2.2.1 SITUATION A:** Team R volleys the ball so it becomes motionless on an overhead obstruction: (a) over Team R's court; (b) over Team S's playing area; or (c) over a playable area which is outside the boundary lines on Team R's side of the net extended. **RULING:** (a) and (c), replay; (b) point. **COMMENT:** In (a) and (c), also point to Team S if the volley is Team R's third hit [9-8-1f(3), 9-3-3d]

**2.2.1 SITUATION B:** The CB on Team S volleys a ball so it hits an overhead obstruction on Team S's side of the net but over the area outside the court. RF makes Team S's second hit, volleying the ball across the net. The overhead obstruction is: (a) 5 feet outside Team S's playing area; (b) 10 feet outside Team S's playing area. **RULING:** (a) and (b), legal. **COMMENT:** Where the ball hits the overhead obstruction is not considered except to determine if it hit on Team S's side of the net extended and it is above a playable area.

**2.2.1 SITUATION C:** A basketball goal is permanently mounted on the floor entirely outside the 6-foot allowance beyond the endline of the court. The goal is permanent in a vertical position. A playable ball brushes (a) the backboard, (b) the standard pole-mounted backboard. **RULING:** (a) judgment replay, (b) out of bounds. **COMMENT:** Floor obstructions outside the 6-foot allowance are considered out of bounds. This should be addressed in the pre-match conference with the coaches and captains. (2-3-1)

## **OUT OF BOUNDS**

**2.3.1 SITUATION A:** Team S's first hit by LF is a softly looping ball which strikes a backboard hanging in a vertical position over: (a) Team S's court; (b) playable area behind Team S's court; (c) non-playable area above the bleachers. Team S's CB is in position to make the team's second hit. **RULING:** (a) and (b) replay, (c) out of bounds, point/loss of rally. **COMMENT:** In (a) and (b) the first referee determined that the ball would have remained in play had the backboard not been there.

**2.3.1 SITUATION B:** During play, the ball hits the antenna in the body of the net, rebounds out and is played by Team R. Both line judges should point toward the antenna and wave the flag to get the first referee's attention, signaling to show the ball is out of bounds because an antenna fault occurred. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The ball touching the antenna above or within the net is out of bounds and constitutes a fault.

## **RESTRICTED PLAY**

**2.4.1 SITUATION A:** A screen intended to separate two courts hangs from the ceiling to the floor, 4 feet from the sideline of each court: (a) RB on Team S holds the screen back while RF makes a play; (b) The ball strikes the screen while RF is getting under the ball to play it. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), the R1 shall stop play and call a replay. **COMMENT:** A full ceiling-to-floor screen is not considered an obstruction hanging from the ceiling, but a temporary wall. The official discerned the ball was playable had the screen not been there.

**2.4.1 SITUATION B:** During play, a player from Team R hits the ball that hits: (a) the second referee (b) a line judge. **RULING:** (a) and (b) out of bounds, point. **COMMENT:** However, if the referees determine that another Team R player could have made a legal play had the ball not hit the non-player, a replay may be ordered.

**2.4.1 SITUATION C:** On a team's second contact, the ball is hit from a playable area over a non-playable area back toward the court and (a) passes over the net between the antennas; (b) the team's third contact passes over the net. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal. **COMMENT:** A ball may be returned over a non-playable area and be passed to a teammate or returned directly to the opponent's court passing between the antennas.

**2.4.1 SITUATION D:** The line judge stops play when Player A breaks the plane of the adjacent court before playing the ball. **RULING:** Illegal procedure. **COMMENT:** This call belongs to the first or second referee. Line judges have no such authority and may not offer information unless requested by the referees.

**2.4.2 SITUATION A:** A player from Team A: (a) after making a legal play on a ball, enters a non-playable area; (b) makes a save while sitting on the scorer's table with no contact to the floor or any playable area on his side of the net; (c) saves a ball with one foot in a playable area and one foot in a non-playable area; (d) moves a curtain divider that is more than 6 feet from the court to play the ball. **RULING:** (a) and (c) legal, (b) and (d) illegal. **COMMENT:** Players may play a ball over a non-playable area at the time the ball is contacted, provided the player is in contact with the playable area. A player may enter a non-playable area after playing a ball.

**2.4.2 SITUATION B:** The RB on Team S stands with both feet on the first row of bleachers while reaching for a volley by a teammate. The distance from the sideline to the bleachers is: (a) 5 feet; (b) 6 feet; (c) 7 feet. **RULING:** (a) replay; (b) and (c) out of bounds. **COMMENT:** There was no contact in a playable area.

## **Rule 3      Game Equipment**

### **COVERING/PADDING**

**3.1.1 SITUATION A:** Prior to the match, the referees notice the top metal cable of the net is: (a) not covered; (b) covered with tape; (c) coated in white plastic; (d) heavily padded with foam rubber. **RULING:** (a) illegal, must be covered; (b) and (c) legal; (d) legal although not preferred. **COMMENT:** When a metal cable is used through the top or bottom of the net, it must be covered.

**3.1.1 SITUATION B:** Prior to the match while inspecting the equipment, the referees notice that the school's name is painted on the top of the canvas portion of the net. **RULING:** Illegal. **COMMENT:** Host management must cover (tape) the printed area of the top canvas of the net before competition begins.

### **THE NET**

**3.1.1 SITUATION C:** Prior to the match, the official notices the net system does not include cables or ropes through the top or bottom of the net. **RULING:** Illegal. **COMMENT:** The net is not in compliance with rule specifications including the requirement of cable or rope through the top and bottom of the net.

**3.1.5 SITUATION:** Prior to the match, the referees notice there are no vertical tape markers on the net. The official directs the host school management to place vertical tape markers on the net in line with each sideline. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Vertical tape markers are not required (but are not illegal), since the net antennas are aligned with the outside edge of the side boundary lines.

### **FIRST REFEREE'S PLATFORM**

**3.1.6 SITUATION:** The first referee's platform is: (a) not high enough; (b) a folding ladder, table or chair. **RULING:** Host management shall do whatever is possible to correct the matter. **COMMENT:** The rules require the host to provide a safe, stable platform which elevates the R1's head 2-3 feet above the top of the net. If the concern is not resolved, the match shall be played, the R1 may officiate from the floor if the platform is unsafe in his or her opinion, and the official shall notify the state association.

### **THE BALL**

**3.2.1 SITUATION:** The home team's coach presents the match balls to the first referee which: (a) have their team mascot on them; (b) have one red panel. **RULING:** (a) and (b) illegal. **COMMENT:** The ball shall be from among those approved by the OBSVCA, spherical with a laceless molded cover of 12 or more pieces, all of which shall either be white or multi-colored, of genuine or simulated smooth leather (not suede) and should have the NFHS authenticating mark. 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.

## **SCORER/SCORESHEET**

**3.3.1 SITUATION:** The host team fails to provide a deciding set scoresheet that allows for a court switch at 8 points (best of 5) or 13 points (best of 3). The visiting scorer has an appropriate scoresheet. **RULING:** No penalty. **COMMENT:** The referees may designate the official scorer. The referees may choose the visiting team's scorer or ask that a copy of the visitor's scoresheet be given to the host team's scorer.

## **OFFICIALS' TABLE/TEAM BENCHES**

**3.4 SITUATION A:** Due to the structure of the facility, the officials' table is located 4 feet from the sideline. **RULING:** No penalty. **COMMENT:** Referees shall make appropriate calls when a player's effort to legally play the ball or player's safety is affected. Padding around the front edge of the table may be needed.

**3.4 SITUATION B:** Because of restricted space, team benches and the officials' table must be positioned at the end of the court. **RULING:** No penalty. **COMMENT:** The table shall be a safe distance from the court and, if necessary, padding of the table should be provided. The second referee and scorer should devise efficient methods for substitution procedure and communication.

**3.5 SITUATION:** The team benches begin at the edge of the officials' table, about 2 feet from the centerline extension. **RULING:** No penalty. **COMMENT:** If space permits, the benches shall be moved to 10 feet from the center line. The second referee may mark the end of the bench with tape starting at the 10-foot line extended.

## **Rule 4 Player Equipment and Uniform**

### **PLAYER EQUIPMENT**

**4.1.1 SITUATION:** A substitute from Team S attempts to enter the set wearing: (a) a cast on his hand which is padded; (b) a flexible plastic support on the forearm; (c) a thick layer of sweatbands on the forearm. **RULING:** (a) and (b) illegal equipment; (c) is legal. **COMMENT:** The cast, although padded, is illegal equipment, unnecessary delay is assessed, and the substitute is not permitted to enter.

**4.1.2 SITUATION A:** A substitute attempts to enter the set wearing: (a) a knee brace which has exposed plastic supports; (b) an ankle brace with an exposed sharp edge; (c) a padded mask covering a broken nose. **RULING:** (a) legal if the referees do not consider it dangerous; (b) illegal unless sharp edge is properly covered or padded; (c) legal. **COMMENT:** Any sharp edges or points on a support/brace shall be covered or padded.

**4.1.2 SITUATION B:** During set 1, a player on Team S is found to be wearing illegal equipment. Later in the match, a teammate attempts to enter the set wearing jewelry. **RULING:** Illegal equipment. **COMMENT:** Subsequent equipment violations by the same team during the match will result in a point/loss of rally being awarded to the opponent, and the player is removed until the illegal equipment is removed or made legal.

**4.1.3 SITUATION:** During warm-ups, the referees observe a player with an artificial arm. The R1 asks the player's coach for the letter of approval from the state association. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A player wearing an artificial limb shall not play unless he has a letter of approval from the state association. This should be presented prior to the match.

**4.1.4 SITUATION:** No. 5 on Team A is in a wheelchair. The official will not allow No. 5 to play until notification from the state association that this player is legal to participate. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Each state association must rule on its own special-needs participants. All equipment used in the playable area presents a risk-management concern and must be padded.

**4.1.5 SITUATION:** A player enters the set wearing: (a) a bandana covering the entire head; (b) hair tied back with a bandana folded so it is only 2 inches wide. **RULING:** (a) illegal equipment; (b) legal. **COMMENT:** In (a), unnecessary delay is assessed and the unfolded bandana must be removed.

**4.1.6 SITUATION A:** A player reports as a substitute wearing: (a) a turban; (b) a yarmulke; (c) tights that extend to the mid-calf which are the same color as the predominant color of the uniform bottom. **RULING:** All are illegal unless worn for religious reasons. **COMMENT:** The players must have written approval from the OBSVCA to wear these illegal uniform items for religious reasons.

**4.1.6 SITUATION B:** During warm-ups, the official notices a player wearing tape at the top of one ear. **RULING:** legal. **COMMENT:** Unless it is obvious there is jewelry present, referees need not look under tape to see if there is jewelry as the head coach has verified the player's legality in reference to the equipment and uniform rule.

**4.1.6 SITUATION C:** At the pre-match conference, the coach for Team A verifies legality of his/her players. During warm-up, however, it is discovered that: (a) No. 5 is wearing a sweat band on the wrist; (b) No. 8 is wearing a tongue piercing. The referees warn the players via a coach that the jewelry shall be removed. **RULING:** (b) correct procedure, (a) incorrect procedure as a sweatband is not jewelry. **COMMENT:** A player shall not wear illegal equipment during warm-up. Failure to comply with the verbal warning should result in an "unsporting conduct" charged to the player refusing to remove or make legal the uniform. Regardless, a player wearing jewelry or illegal equipment is not allowed to continue to warm up with the illegal equipment or jewelry or to enter the court to play until the illegal equipment/jewelry is removed. Referees are guided to handle such situations with the verbiage "he can't warm up wearing jewelry (or illegal equipment), coach" rather than directing the removal of such jewelry as a tongue piercing. "He can't warm up wearing jewelry or illegal equipment" avoids directing removal, is just as effective.

**4.1.6 SITUATION D:** A player attempts to enter the set wearing athletic tape over his medical medal that is taped to his forearm. During pre-match, the coach had declared his/her team legal, and the referees did not see the taped medal; however, when the player tried to enter the set, the R2 felt the medal should have been taped under the uniform. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The rule is not specific about where the medal should be taped. The coach is asked to demonstrate good judgment when students have special medical needs. Medical alert medals must be taped to the body and may be visible. It is important that medical needs can be noticed easily by health-care professionals. Religious medals shall be taped and worn under the uniform.

**4.1.7 SITUATION:** A player (a) is discovered during the warm-up wearing a diamond stud in the ear lobe; (b) during the set is sitting on the bench wearing a nose piercing. **RULING:** (a) illegal; (b) legal until the player attempts to enter the set. **COMMENT:** Good preventative officiating would allow the official to remind players and coaches of equipment and uniform legality during the pre-match conference; illegal equipment must be made legal (removal is player choice; remaining in the warm. Situation (a) and (b) would result in an unnecessary delay.

## **LEGAL UNIFORM**

**4.2.1 SITUATION A:** Uniforms on Team A are alike except: (a) sleeve length on shirts; (b) color of side seam strips; (c) some are faded; (d) style. **RULING:** All are legal.

**4.2.1 SITUATION B:** A player, other than the libero, is wearing a uniform of a different color from his teammates: (a) goes on the court to start set one; (b) later attempts to enter as a single substitute; (c) even later, attempts to enter set two in the same uniform. **RULING:** All are illegal uniforms. **COMMENT:** (a) unnecessary delay is charged, and the uniform must be made legal during the time-out for the player to remain in the set. If replacing the player involves changing the lineup, a point/loss of rally awarded to start the set; (b) and (c) a point/loss of rally awarded to the opponent for a subsequent uniform violation by the same team during the match.

**4.2.1 SITUATION C:** The visiting team's new uniforms have button-collared shirts. **RULING:** Illegal uniforms. **COMMENT:** Uniforms with buttons, zippers, snaps and fasteners are not legal. All uniforms must be free of all hard and unyielding items.

**4.2.4 SITUATION A:** Team A has uniform jerseys with numbers on the front which are located: (a) on right bottom edge of ribbing of collar; (b) two inches below the ribbing of the collar; (c) on bottom of uniform top. **RULING:** (a) legal if numbers are at least 4 inches tall, (b) legal uniform, (c) illegal uniform. Numbers on uniforms must be no more than 5 inches from shoulder seam, when on the left or right. Centered numbers may be no more than 5 inches from bottom seam of the neckline.

**4.2.4 SITUATION B:** Team A's uniforms have: (a) contrasting colored numbers; (b) contrasting color school name and numbers; (c) school mascot and name are the same color as the uniform but have contrasting colored numbering. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal. **COMMENT:** Only the numbers or trim surrounding the number are required to contrast with the color of the uniform top.

**4.2.4 SITUATION C:** Uniforms for Team B are tie-dyed and the numbers: (a) are clearly visible; (b) contain three digits; (c) blend with the colors of the uniform top; (d) have a ¼ inch shadow on one side. **RULING:** (a) and (d) legal; (b) and (c) are illegal uniforms, a point/loss of rally begins the match and the state association is notified. **COMMENT:** Numbers or surrounding trim must be a solid, contrasting color, clearly visible with no more than two digits. Shadowed numbers are legal. Player numbers shall not exceed two digits.

**4.2.4 SITUATION D:** The referees are observing warm-ups and notice that the home team has numbers on the uniform top in the center that drop down lower than 5 inches from the shoulder seam but only about 2 inches below the bottom of the v-neck. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** Numbers on the center of the uniform top may be located 5 inches below the bottom edge of any neckline or seam. The number should be clearly visible with this placement.

**4.2.7 SITUATION:** The players on Team A are wearing shirts under their sleeveless red uniform tops. Three players' shirts: (a) have red, long sleeves and the other three have red short sleeves; (b) are red and three are white. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b) illegal uniforms, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** Players with white undershirts may not enter until they remove the undershirt or replace it with a red undershirt.

**4.2.8 SITUATION A:** Extending below a player's uniform shorts are: (a) compression shorts the same color as the uniform bottom; (b) biking shorts of a different color than the uniform bottom (has written medical authorization); (c) tights extending down to the ankle which are the same color as the uniform bottom (with written authorization from state association. **RULING:** (a) and (c) legal; (b) illegal uniform, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** The biking shorts must be the same color as the predominant color of the uniform bottom regardless of any written medical authorization. In (c) tights are legal only when worn for religious purposes with written state association approval.

**4.2.8 SITUATION B:** A player is discovered in the set wearing a: (a) dark colored back brace, worn on the outside of a white uniform top and red shorts, which does not interfere with visibility of the number; (b) back brace that is a part of black compression short which extends below the red uniform shorts. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b) illegal equipment, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** In (b), the brace is a part of compression shorts which are illegal because they extend below the uniform bottom and are not the same color as the predominant color of the uniform bottom.

## **Rule 5 Officials: Responsibilities and Positions**

### **FIRST REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5.3.1 SITUATION A:** The coach of the home, which has no parents to act as line judges, suggests that the match be conducted without line judges. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. Two line judges shall be used with the host management typically providing both.

**5.3.1 SITUATION B:** One of the referees arrives at the site in street clothes just five minutes before the starting time for the match. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure in every way imaginable. **COMMENT:** Every effort must be made to start matches on time. If one referee is late, the other referee should conduct the pre-match conference and coin toss at the appropriate time. Team warm-ups should proceed on the assumption the match will begin on time. Arriving courtside less than 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of the first match is unacceptable other than in a real emergency.

**5.3.1 SITUATION C:** The referee may not permit a player to continue to play if the player has: (a) an excessive amount of blood on the uniform; (b) several wet spots of blood on the uniform; (c) a few dried spots of blood on the uniform. **RULING:** (a) and (b), correct procedure; (c) incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** In (a) and (b), the uniform must be changed before the player can remain in/re-enter the match. A few dried spots of blood are not considered excessive blood on the uniform. However, a conservative approach to blood-borne pathogens is always appropriate.

**5.3.3 SITUATION A:** The visiting team's coach contends that a three-point error exists on the official scoresheet. The coach is charged with a time-out for requesting verification of the score. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** A request to check the score is treated the same as a request to check serving order; no time-out is needed. It is the coach's and scorer's responsibility to keep track of all points awarded, and any error should be brought to the attention of the referees (normally the R2) on the first dead ball.

**5.3.3 SITUATION B:** A ball landing near an end line is called "in" by the line judge. The R1 sees the ball land out of bounds and scans the rest of the officiating team for information. **RULING:** The R1 should overrule the line call if the R1 is 100% certain the call was incorrect. The R1 would first whistle when the ball landed, scan for information, then – unless accepting a touched out call by the R2 or the other line judge – would whistle ("tweet-tweet"), check his/her head to indicate the overrule and show the ball lands out of bounds signal, then loss of rally/point. **COMMENT:** The R1 makes the final decision after processing information from the rest of the officiating crew.

**5.3.3 SITUATION C:** After Team S scores a point, the coach brings to the attention of the R2 that, during the rally, a back-row player from Team S participated in a completed block. **RULING:** Point stands. **COMMENT:** The alleged foul was not recognized by either referee, so the call stands unless either of the officials remembers that this player (number) did participate in a completed block and verifies the player was indeed back row on that rally..

**5.3.3 SITUATION D:** After the first referee whistles and signals for the serve, the second referee sounds the whistle for a substitution. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The ball is dead. The substitution is denied, and a new whistle and signal for serve is given. There are two mitigating circumstances in such a situation. IF the request for substitution actually was heard/seen prior to the R1's service authorization, the R2 should ensure that the substitution is allowed (tap chest to show that R2 heard the request before the whistle). IF the request was actually simultaneous to the R1's whistle, the coach should be warned to request substitutions more quickly, and substitution should be allowed. IF the request for substitution came after the R1's whistle, the R2 owns some responsibility for whistling instead of shaking the head "no" and allowing play to continue. The R2's inadvertent whistle can result in UD charged to the coach for the late request which would be allowed after the UD (time-out or loss of rally). Gamesmanship (continued late requests) should not be allowed to continue.

**5.3.3 SITUATION E:** Team A serves the ball into the net, then calls a time-out. When both teams return to the floor, the coach of Team B asks for the serving order of his/her team. The second referee places Team B in the wrong serving order. The error is not discovered until Team B has won points with an improper server. Prior to Team A serving, the scorer notifies the officials that Team B had an improper server. After conferring with the second referee, the referee corrects Team B's serving order, cancels the four points scored with the improper server, and Team B serves with the proper server. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A referee may correct an error by a member of the officiating crew provided the correction occurs before the opposing team contacts the ball for service.

**5.3.3 SITUATION F:** The R1: (a) replaces a line judge who continues to be inattentive; (b) replaces a scorer who continues to make mistakes despite additional instructions from the second referee. **RULING:** (a) and (b), correct procedure. Consultation with the R2 is appropriate but replacing a line judge is also a timing issue which may result in this occurring between sets. Consultation with the R2 before replacing the scorer is logical.

**5.3.4 SITUATION:** Team S believes it has scored match point in set 5. Team S's coach and players enter the court in celebration. However, it is discovered during the second referee's check of the score that Team S has only 14 points. **RULING:** The teams should report to their respective end lines when the referee gives the end-of-set signal and directs them to do so. **COMMENT:** The referees must restore order and ask both teams to return to the court. The R2 should confer with both head coaches to explain the situation. When ready to resume play, the same six players on Team S return to the court in the same serving order, and Team S serves again. Team S may even make a substitution prior to the serve. If a team continues to forget the end-of-set procedure, it could be considered unsporting. The second referee should be aware of and signal "set point" before the end of the set.

## **SECOND REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5.4.3 SITUATION A:** During the match the referee insists on using a lineup card to keep track of rotation and subs even though it slowed the substitution/match. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Lineup cards are tools that may be used by the second referee. Good officiating uses teamwork; therefore, the referee should trust the second referee to handle his/her job and not duplicate efforts.

**5.4.3 SITUATION B:** During play, the second referee makes several ball-handling calls. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Ball-handling calls are determined by the referee **except** when they are clearly out of view of the referee. The referees shall discuss any discrepancies in private.

**5.4.3 SITUATION C:** The second referee may keep notations on a lineup card for illegal player equipment/uniforms, warnings, penalties or disqualifications for unsporting conduct. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The R2 is not required to keep this information on the lineup card but may do so if preferred. The R2 is responsible to confirm these violations with the scorer. The starting lineup must be recorded on the R2's lineup card.

**5.4.3 SITUATION D:** The second referee blows the whistle and signals out. The first referee mirrors the out signal and awards a loss of rally when the second hit by Team S (a) passes outside the antenna; (b) breaks the plane of its bench or bleachers. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Second referees may assist the referee by making sure a whistle is blown for each dead ball when beyond a player's legal reach. In this situation, the R2 whistled the antenna fault on the second referee's side of the court. The R2 is much less likely to whistle a ball over the antenna on the R1's side.

## **SCORER RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5.5.3 SITUATION A:** Before the match begins, the second referee requests the scorer to notify the R2 when the score for one team reaches set point. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** It is good practice for the scorer to verify the visual score at set point. The R2 (verbally/visually) and R1 (visually) should both be aware of when set point is reached by a team.

**5.5.3 SITUATION B:** Team A's coach requests a 19th team substitution. The scorekeeper did not notify the second referee of Team A's 15th, 16th, 17th or 18th substitutions. **RULING:** Illegal substitution. **COMMENT:** It is the coach's ultimate responsibility to know the number of substitutions used by the team.

## **LIBERO TRACKER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5.6.1 SITUATION:** Pre match, the R2 reviews with the libero tracker that he/she is to sit by the scorer, record libero replacements and substitutions, notify the second referee if a discrepancy occurs with a replacement, and notify the scorer to sound the signal when there is an improper replacement. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The libero tracker's responsibilities are tracking the actions of the libero. It is permissible that the timer also serve as libero tracker although not preferred.

## **TIMER RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5.7.3 SITUATION:** The timer times a team time-out, giving an audio signal at the end of 45 seconds and after 60 seconds. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The first signal at 45 seconds should be considered a warning, and teams shall get ready to play. The second signal is given only if both teams are not ready to play after 60 seconds. When teams are ready to play earlier, the second referee shall whistle to end the time-out.

## **LINE JUDGE RESPONSIBILITIES**

**5.8.2 SITUATION:** The line judge is standing at the intersection of the sideline and attack line during a time-out. This creates a problem because he/she is standing in front of Team A's bench in an area where the team typically huddles. The coach from Team A asks the official to have the line judge move to the other side of the court. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The line judge should not stand at the attack line on the side of the net where the team huddles. The referees should have seen this and addressed it before it became an issue.

**5.8.3 SITUATION:** During play, a ball hits the antenna. Both line judge signals antenna fault, pointing the index finger at the antenna and waving the flag to show this. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The line judge should make this call any time the ball contacts the antenna and hold the signal until the referee acknowledges it.

## **Rule 6 The Team: Composition and Positions**

### **TEAM PLAYERS**

**6.1.2 SITUATION:** Player No. 6 on Team R is injured during a set. Team R prefers to play shorthanded even though it has substitute No. 20 who has not previously played, or substitute No. 25, who has previously entered for No. 3. **RULING:** Team R shall substitute No. 20 for No. 6. **COMMENT:** The rule which permits play with fewer than six players does not permit a team to choose to play with less when eligible substitutes are on the bench available to play.

### **CAPTAIN**

**6.2.1 SITUATION:** The coach fails to designate a new captain when substituting for the playing captain. **RULING:** No penalty. **COMMENT:** No player may request a time-out, a check of the serving order or communicate with officials in the absence of the playing captain. The second referee should request that a captain be designated. The scorer and libero tracker should have brought this to the R2's attention, but the R2 should have been aware that the captain left the court.

**6.2.2 SITUATION A:** The captain of Team S requests a serving-order check. The players are out of order. **RULING:** The order is corrected, and no penalty is charged unless it is determined that Team S had an improper server or requests become excessive.

**6.2.2 SITUATION B:** The captain of Team R asks for a check of Team S's serving order. **RULING:** Request denied. **COMMENT:** Captains may only request verification of the proper server of the opposing team and not the other team's entire serve order.

### **ALIGNMENT**

**6.3.3 SITUATION A:** At the moment of serve, LF on Team R has: (a) one foot on but not beyond the sideline; (b) one foot touching the floor outside the sideline; (c) one hand touching on and over the centerline; (d) one foot extended over the sideline, not touching the floor. **RULING:** (a) and (d) legal; (b) and (c) illegal alignment, point. **COMMENT:** At the moment of serve, all players except the server shall be within the team's playing area and may be in contact with boundary lines or center line.

**6.3.3 SITUATION B:** An incorrect server for Team A scores two points before losing the serve. The server on Team B is granted a re-serve after a bad toss. An official discovers that Team A had an incorrect server before Team B contacts the re-serve. **RULING:** Illegal Alignment/Improper Server charged to Team A. All points scored by the improper server are cancelled. **COMMENT:** A serve is a contact with the ball to initiate play. The server from Team B had not yet contacted the ball for serve. Had the contact been made, the points would remain.

**6.3.3 SITUATION I:** Team R's CF setter is straddling the feet of the CB player at the moment of service. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** It is only illegal when a back-row player overlaps his adjacent front-row player toward the center line, or a player in the middle position overlaps his adjacent player on either side toward the sideline.

**6.3.5 SITUATION:** A team has only six players and one is injured during the first set and is unable to play. **RULING:** The team may play with only five players. **COMMENT:** A point/loss of rally is awarded each time the vacant position rotates to the RB position.

## **SCREENING**

**6.4.1 SITUATION A:** CF on Team R claims RF on Team S, who is standing close to the net but not jumping or waving, is screening the CF view of the server. **RULING:** No screen. **COMMENT:** No player on the receiving team is entitled to a specific position on the floor. If a player on the receiving team cannot see the server, that player should move. If, after that player moves, the serving team's player moves to take another position which blocks that player's view of the server, the referee shall call screening.

**6.4.1 SITUATION B:** During service, the three front-row players on the serving team are grouped together. The ball is served: (a) in a high looping trajectory; (b) over the CB and CF, who are bent at the waist; (c) fast and hard, but the referee believes the receivers could see the contact of the serve; (d) fast and hard, and the referee believes the receivers could not see the contact of the serve. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) are all legal, no screen, play continues. (d) is the only instance where it is judged that a screen took place. **COMMENT:** If the served ball is high and easy to react to, no screen is called, regardless of the position of the players on the serving team. If the serving team players attempt to give the receivers a visual path to see the contact of the serve (such as by bending at the waist, for example, or separating and not filling in with back-row players), no screen is called. When the serve is low and fast, and the receivers were prevented from seeing the contact of the serve, or if a player on the serving team moves to get between the server and the receiver after the receiver has moved to see contact of the serve, the potential for calling a screen is the greatest. A jump float serve that barely clears the net over a group screen is very likely to result in a screening fault call.

## **Rule 7 Roster and Lineup**

**7.1.1 SITUATION A:** Five minutes before the end of timed pre-match warm up, the scorer discovers that Team S has: (a) an inaccurate roster; (b) an unlisted team member. The set begins with a loss of rally awarded to the opponent and roster is corrected. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** An unlisted team member is ineligible until the coach adds the player to the roster and is penalized. Inaccuracies must be corrected when discovered. There is no penalty if the changes or additions are made before the deadline for submission of the roster.

**7.1.1 SITUATION B:** Team A has six players. After the set begins, player No. 6 is injured and unable to play. Later during the set, player No. 25 arrives. Player No. 25 is: (a) not listed on the roster; (b) listed. **RULING:** (a) Player No. 25 may be added to the roster and enter the set after Team A is penalized loss of rally/point. (b) Player No. 25 may enter without penalty.

**7.1.1 SITUATION C:** Three minutes before the end of the time pre-match warm-up, Team S (the serving team) presents its roster and lineup to the scorer. Then, 30 seconds before the end of timed pre-match warm-up, Team S presents two additional names for the roster. **RULING:** Roster violations; point/loss of rally is assessed for the late roster. The two additional names are added and a point is awarded for the change of roster after the deadline. **COMMENT:** The two violations occurred at different times; therefore, each violation is penalized with Team B serving first, leading 2-0.

**7.1.1 SITUATION D:** Player No. 2 of Team A has excessive blood on the uniform top. Team A's coach substitutes player No. 5 for player No. 2, then directs player No.2 to go to the locker room and replace the uniform top by putting on player No. 15's jersey and player No. 15 putting on a plain tee-shirt. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** The roster shall be changed with no penalty assessed. The player originally wearing No. 15 is no longer eligible to play in the match unless the player puts on another uniform top, the roster is changed and a penalty assessed for the roster change of player No. 15. Note: any blood is an issue, not just excessive blood.

## **LINEUP**

**7.1.2 SITUATION A:** The officials discover that player No. 22 is listed on the lineup sheet but player No. 12 is on the court: (a) No. 22 must replace No. 12 on the court before the set begins; (b) No. 12 stays in the set, and the team takes a penalty for a lineup change. **RULING:** (a) legal, no penalty unless there is a delay in the start of the set; (b) illegal. **COMMENT:** The coach cannot choose to take the penalty. Lineup manipulation is not permitted.

**7.1.2 SITUATION B:** The coach from Team A wants to accept a penalty point for not turning in his/her lineup on time and then requests a substitution before the ball is put into play. **RULING:** Not turning in a lineup timely results in a penalty point being assessed. **COMMENT:** Substitution to start a set is allowed for OHSBVA matches. However, a coach has the opportunity to rework the lineup if the lineup is handed back through a referee prior to the deadline for lineup submission.

**7.1.3 SITUATION:** Between sets, the coach takes the combined roster/lineup sheet from the officials' table to prepare his/her lineup for the next set. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** The rosters and lineup sheets, or combined roster/lineup sheet shall remain at the officials' table throughout each set, but this doesn't preclude a coach from taking the lineup from the table to prepare the lineup for the next set. Alteration to the roster without the referees' approving it and overseeing any change to determine the consequences would constitute unsporting conduct AND result in a report being filed with the OBSVCA.

## **Rule 8 The Serve**

**8.1.1 SITUATION:** The server hits the ball before the first referee signals for the serve: (a) there was a whistle blown on the other court; (b) the crowd noise made it difficult to hear a whistle throughout the set; (c) the server appeared confused or overly excited. **RULING:** Replay.

**8.1.2 SITUATION A:** After the first referee's signal to serve, the server runs up to the line, jumps into the air, contacts the ball while over the court and lands 10 feet inside the end line. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** The jump must be from a legal position within the serving area.

**8.1.2 SITUATION B:** After the first referee's signal to serve, the server runs from outside the left sideline extension to jump serve from within that line extended and behind the end line. **RULING:** Legal.

## **RE-SERVE**

**8.1.4 SITUATION:** Player S1 is awarded a re-serve, then serves two more points before being replaced by Player S2. Player S2 is awarded a re-serve during his term of service. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Each player is entitled to one re-serve during any one team's term of service.

**8.1.5 SITUATION A:** After the first referee's signal for service, the server: (a) swings and misses the tossed ball; (b) swings, misses and the ball contacts his shoulder; (c) lets the tossed ball drop to the floor; (d) catches a bad toss; (e) tosses the ball, then lets it drop without swinging at it, but it touches the server's knee as it drops to the floor. **RULING:** (a), (c), (d), (e), re-serve; (b) illegal service, point/loss of rally. **COMMENT:** In (b), if the ball had not touched the server, but dropped to the floor, it would have been a re-serve; (e) no attempt was made to serve the ball.

**8.1.5 SITUATION B:** Player No. 12 of Team S is awarded a re-serve. The coach of Team S requests and is given a time-out. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** A re-serve is considered a part of a single attempt to serve. Therefore, no requests such as a time-out, substitution, etc. can be recognized.

## **ILLEGAL SERVE**

**8.2.5 SITUATION:** Player No. 7 is serving and has scored two points when the coach realizes player No. 7 is serving out of order. The coach requests a time-out. When the teams return to the floor following the time-out, player No. 9 (the proper server) serves and the team scores an additional three points. The referees then realize that a different player has been serving since the time-out and discover the error. The points scored by No. 7 are cancelled, but the team retains the points scored by the proper server. Point/loss of rally is awarded to the opponent. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The first serve was by the wrong server; therefore, it is a point/loss of rally. No points should have been awarded; therefore, all points scored by No. 7 and No. 9 are cancelled.

## **SERVICE FAULT**

**8.2.6 SITUATION:** At the moment the ball is contacted for serve, CB and RB on Team R are overlapping. However, (a) the server commits a foot fault; (b) the serve lands out of bounds. **RULING:** (a) illegal serve, point/loss of rally; (b) illegal alignment, point.

**8.2. SITUATION:** Server A recognizes that he is the improper server so he tosses and catches the ball to force a re-serve. Before the five seconds for the re-serve have elapsed, the proper server takes his place and makes a legal serve, then makes a bad toss for the second serve and catches the ball. **RULING:** Illegal serve; point/loss of rally. **COMMENT:** The improper server has already used up the proper server's re-serve privilege for that player's term of service.

## **Rule 9 During Play**

### **COURT PROTOCOL**

**9.2.2 SITUATION:** After match point of the final set, the R1 signals "end of set," directing the teams to their respective end lines. Team A is celebrating its victory and does not respond to the signal. The referees: (a) signal "end of set" and initial the scoresheet; (b) repeat the end-of-set signal, directing both teams to the end lines; (c) penalize Team A by taking away set point and resuming the set. **RULING:** (a) correct procedure; (b) and (c) incorrect procedure.

### **CONTACTING THE BALL**

**9.4.1 SITUATION:** Team R spikes the ball, causing it to go out of bounds. To avoid contacting the ball, Team S's CB ducks out of its path. Prior to the ball landing out of bounds, it brushes the CB's hair without touching the player's head. The ball does not change direction. The R1 signals "touch" and a loss of rally/point. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Loose hair is not considered a touch on the ball.

**9.4.3 SITUATION A:** CF on Team R jumps to block a spike by an opposing player. The jump is too early, so CF is on the way down and not above the net when he contacts and deflects the ball which is: (a) still partially above the top of the net but the blocker is no longer reaching above net height; (b) completely below and not near the top of the net and the blocker is no longer reaching above net height when the ball contacts the player. **RULING:** (a) legal, Team R has two hits remaining; (b) legal, Team R has two hits remaining. **COMMENT:** The plays in (a) and (b) are no longer blocks, because CF is not reaching higher than the top of the net. The key in applying blocking rules is a player near the net reaching above the net rather than ball height.

**9.4.3 SITUATION B:** The CF and LF of Team S go up for a block and have their hands above net height. The ball hits the wrist of both players. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** This play is considered one block, and the team has three hits available.

**9.4.3 SITUATION C:** Two opposing players simultaneously contact (joust) the ball as it breaks the plane of the net after the third team hit by Team S. **RULING:** Four-hits fault committed by Team S. **COMMENT:** Because Team S used all three hits, Team R must be allowed to touch the ball before Team S does.

**9.4.5 SITUATION:** During the second contact, CB on Team S contacts the ball: (a) with both hands, while his back is to the net; (b) with both hands as he rises from a squat position; (c) with one hand above the head to set the ball. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal unless the R1 sees prolonged contact or multiple contacts.

**9.4.6 SITUATION:** Immediately following a joust, the ball rolls along the top of the net into the antenna, landing out of bounds on Team S's side of the net. **RULING:** Replay. **COMMENT:** The ball becomes dead when it hits the antenna, and both teams are considered as having touched the ball last.

**9.4.7 SITUATION:** CF on Team R blocks a spike, sending the ball straight into the air over Team R's court. The CF plays the ball next. **RULING:** legal, Team R now has two hits remaining.

## **MULTIPLE CONTACTS**

**9.4.8 SITUATION A:** When receiving a serve, the CB on Team R double hits the ball while attempting an overhead pass to a teammate. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** Multiple contacts on first team hit are legal, even with finger action; however, prolonged contact is illegal and must be called on all contacts if it occurs.

**9.4.8 SITUATION B:** A player on Team R receives: (a) a served ball overhead and there are multiple contacts; (b) a hard-driven spiked ball with finger action; (c) the first ball over the net and mishandles the ball with prolonged contact. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal, play continues; (c), illegal. **COMMENT:** Multiple contacts are allowed on any first hit as long as there is only attempt to play the ball. Prolonged contact is not allowed when playing the ball. "Finger action" is not a consideration.

**9.4.8 SITUATION C:** A hard-driven spike hits Team R's CB on the shoulder, causing the ball to pop into the air. The CB instinctively swings his arm and contacts the ball, passing it to a teammate. **RULING:** Illegal, successive contacts. **COMMENT:** The second contact was not a part of one attempt to play the ball. Therefore, this is not considered multiple contacts on the first ball over the net

**9.4.8 SITUATION D:** In attempting to block an attack, Team R's RF deflects the ball into R's side of the net. RF reaches out to save the ball, which then bounces off RF's fist, then shoulder. **RULING:** Legal, play continues. **COMMENT:** The multiple contacts by Team R's blocker were on the first team hit and constituted one attempt to play the ball.

**9.4.8 SITUATION E:** The LB of Team R's first hit has multiple contacts from the left fist to the right fist during one attempt to play the ball. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** On a team's first hit, multiple contacts are allowed in one attempt to play the ball.

## **CENTER LINE**

**9.5.2 SITUATION A:** LF on Team S steps completely across the out-of-bounds extension of the center line: (a) to hit the ball, which has not completely crossed the vertical plane of the net extended, to teammates; (b) as a result of momentum from the play of the ball on Team S's side of the center line; (c) in order to get out of the way of a play by a teammate. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal. **COMMENT:** Any player may cross the extension of the center line outside the court, provided he does not interfere with the opposing team, and the ball has not completely crossed the vertical plane of the net.

**9.5.2 SITUATION B:** RF on Team S spikes the ball for a point after which the RF: (a) steps completely over the center line; (b) touches the net. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal. **COMMENT:** The ball must be live for a net foul or center line violation to occur.

**9.5.2 SITUATION C:** A player from Team S, attempting to save a ball that is outside the boundary of the court in a playable area, steps across the extension of the center line to play a ball which has: (a) partially crossed the vertical plane of the net extended; (b) completely crossed the vertical plane of the net extended. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b) ball is considered out of bounds when no part of the ball is any longer in the plane of the net ("on plane"), point/loss of rally. (9-5-7 & 8)

## **BACK-ROW PLAYER**

**9.5.4 SITUATION A:** Team R's RB attempts to contact the ball while he is near the net. At the point of contact, the ball is totally above net height and, logically, the RB is reaching above net height. The RB (a) directs the ball toward a teammate and the ball enters the plane of the net where it is legally contacted first by Team S; (b) uses a fist in an attempt to save the ball but accidentally directs the ball toward the opponent where the ball is legally contacted by Team S. **RULING:** (a) and (b) illegal, back-row attack on Team R. **COMMENT:** A back-row player cannot complete an attack with last floor contact inside the attack zone if the ball was totally above net height at point of contact. Being near the net and the RB reaching above net height are only relevant to determining blocking faults. In these situations, the ball was directed by Team R's RB and, therefore, there are no blocking issues to be addressed.

**9.5.4 SITUATION B:** While blocking a hard-driven spike (blocker reaching above net height), the ball travels between the hands of the block and bounces off the head of the blocker. After coming off of the head, the ball was: (a) bumped with a forearm pass; (b) dug by the setter; (c) hit off the shoulders. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal. **COMMENT:** The head can be used to block the ball and is a legal block, not the first hit.

**9.5.4 SITUATION C:** Team R's CB sets the ball from in front of the attack line while the ball is completely above the top of the net. His teammate misses the set but is still in position to play the ball, and the ball is then blocked while: (a) completely on Team R's side; (b) partially across the net; (c) completely on Team S's side of the net. **RULING:** (a) over-the-net foul on Team S since the hitter was still in position to play the ball which was not going over the net, in the R1's judgment; (b) and (c) back-row attack on Team R. **COMMENT:** In (a), Team R did not have the opportunity to complete the attack because of the over-the-net contact which took the play away. If the ball would have crossed the net to Team S's side, an over-the-net block might be legal. In both (b) and (c) Team R's CB was setting the ball higher than the net and the ball could be attack legally by Team S once it broke the plane above the net.

**9.5.4 SITUATION D:** Team R's CB is near the net and sets a ball which is completely above the top of the net to his MH for a quick attack. Before the MH can attack the ball, it drifts into the plane of the net where Team S's CF blocks it back into Team R's CB while he is still reaching above net height. The ball: (a) bounces off the CB and stays on Team R's side of the net; (b) rebounds off the CB with the ball totally above net height and returns to Team S's side of the net untouched. **RULING:** (a) and (b) back-row block upon contact since the CB was above net height, near the net and deflecting the ball coming from the opponents. In (b), the back-row block occurs before the back-row attack does.

**9.5.4 SITUATION E:** The first contact by Team R is an overpass that lands briefly on top of the net. The back-row setter for Team R, while standing on the floor, reaches up and taps the ball down to Team S's court. **RULING:** Point, back-row attack. **COMMENT:** It is obvious the ball was completely above the height of the net when attacked by the back-row setter.

**9.5.4 SITUATION F:** The first contact by Team R is set by the libero in the attack zone. Team R's setter is front row, and he jump-sets the ball while it is completely above net height, sending the ball toward his outside hitter. Before the outside hitter can contact the ball, the set enters the plane above the net where it is legally blocked or attacked by Team S. **RULING:** Illegal attack off the libero pass. Point/LOR to Team S. **COMMENT:** The R1 observes that the libero set the first ball inside the attack zone. The R1 observes that a player for Team R (front row or back row is irrelevant) made the next contact while the ball was totally above net height. The legal block/attack by Team S makes this a completed attack from above net height off the libero set in the attack zone.

**9.5.5 SITUATION A:** A back-row player attacks the ball from in front of the attack line. The R1: (a) blows the play dead immediately; (b) lets play continue until the ball crosses the net; (c) lets play continue if it is legally blocked. **RULING:** (a) and (c) incorrect procedure, play continues until the ball completely crosses the net or is legally blocked (attack is completed); (b) correct procedure, attack is not considered completed until it completely crosses the net. **COMMENT:** This is to clarify when a back-row attack becomes illegal. Decision of the R1 is based on result, not intent.

**9.5.5 SITUATION B:** The RB on Team S who is close to the net and in the vicinity of the ball, fakes a: (a) spike; (b) block. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal.

**9.5.5 SITUATION C:** Team R's No. 4 attempts to block a serve by Team S, but does not make contact with the ball. Team R's No. 4 is: (a) LF or (b) LB. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal. **COMMENT:** An attempt to block with no contact is not considered a block unless the player attempting to block is the libero.

**9.5.5 SITUATION D:** The back-row setter comes up from the back row to make the set. The opposing team immediately return the ball, and the back-row player attempts to block the ball but no contact is made. The referees let play continue. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** A back-row player is not in violation unless contact occurs or there is a completed block, including being part of a collective block. Rules clearly define a block, block attempt and completed block.

**9.5.8 SITUATION:** A player on Team S spikes the ball. The player's momentum causes the player to: (a) cross the center-line extension outside the court, but inside the net standard; (b) cross the center line inside the court after the R1 has blown the spiked ball dead; (c) cross the center-line extension outside the court, but the player interferes with a blocker attempting to dig the ball. **RULING:** In (a) and (b), legal, (c) illegal, center line violation. **COMMENT:** A player may cross the extension of the center line outside the court at any time provided he does not interfere with play by the opposing team.

## **NET PLAY**

**9.6.3 SITUATION:** CF on Team S, reaching across the net, does not contact the ball but touches the setter's hand: (a) before; (b) during; (c) after the set. **RULING:** (a) and (b) interference, over-the-net, point/loss of rally; (c) play continues, no penalty. **COMMENT:** If there is no interference on the play, play continues.

**9.6.4 SITUATION A:** There is simultaneous contact by Team R's spiker and Team S's blocker on a ball which is: (a) directly above the net; (b) completely on Team R's side of the net; (c) completely on Team S's side of the net. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b) over-the-net foul on Team S, loss of rally/point to Team R.; (c) over-the-net foul on Team R. **COMMENT:** In (b), the offensive team must have the first opportunity to contact the ball. In (c), it is never legal to complete an attack on a ball that is completely on the opponent's side.

**9.6.4 SITUATION B:** Team R LB shanks the first team hit into and half way up the net. In an attempt to save the ball, Team R's setter punches the ball straight up as it rebounds out of the net, where it is promptly "roofed" by Team S's CF. **RULING:** Point, over-the-net foul. **COMMENT:** If Team R still had a contact remaining and a player in the position to make the play, the "roof" block did not allow the ball to penetrate the plane of the net.

**9.6.6 SITUATION A:** A served ball is spiked from the front zone while totally above the height of the net by Player B of Team R. The spiked ball goes into the net and is recovered by Player C of Team R. **RULING:** Legal, Team R has one hit remaining. **COMMENT:** The ball is not considered illegally attacked until it completely crosses the vertical plane of the net or is legally contacted. A completed attack on the serve from the back zone would be legal under OHSBVA rules.

**9.6.6. SITUATION B:** The setter on the receiving team saves the ball from contacting the floor after a teammate unsuccessfully attacks the serve from the front zone. **RULING:** Play continues. **COMMENT:** Attacking a served ball while it is above the height of the net from the front zone is a violation only if the attack is completed.

**9.6.7 SITUATION A:** A player: (a) contacts the first referee's platform; (b) crashes into the first referee's platform, violently shaking the platform; (c) grasps the standards for support; (d) touches the net cable between the net and the standard. **RULING:** (a) legal; (b), (c) and (d) illegal, net foul. Contacting the stand is not illegal unless the R1 considers the contact a true collision.

**9.6.7 SITUATION B:** The LF on Team R comes down from an attack with his foot partially across the center line. As he tries to return to his position at the net, a Team S player comes down on his foot. This contact under the net causes the: (a) LF of Team R; (b) Team S player to fall into the net. **RULING:** (a) net foul on Team R, point; (b) net foul, Team S. **COMMENT:** Incidental contact is not penalized unless it interferes with a player's legitimate effort to next play the ball.

## **DOUBLE FOUL**

**9.7.2 SITUATION:** The CF on Team A reaches over the net and blocks the ball just after it leaves the setter's hand and at the same time Team B's setter's shoulder contacts the net. **RULING:** Double foul. **COMMENT:** The two violations, one on each team, occurred at the same instant and a replay is called.

## **SIMULTANEOUS FOULS**

**9.7.4 SITUATION:** The score is 10 to 10. Team R's captain requests a third time-out and a player on R's bench makes derogatory remarks to the second referee. **RULING:** Simultaneous fouls during a dead ball, both penalties are assessed. No time-out is given. First penalty gives a point to Team S. Unsporting conduct is then addressed at whatever level the R2 and R2 belief is appropriate (probably a red/penalty card with an additional point awarded to Team S).

## **REPLAY**

**9.8.1 SITUATION A:** The second volley by Team S goes up into the rafters over its playing area where it: (a) bounces; (b) rolls along a beam; (c) sticks momentarily on the rafters; then falls on the same side of the court. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c), play continues.

**9.8.1 SITUATION B:** While the ball is being played away from the net, a player causes the net to bounce wildly. Reflex causes one of the referees to blow the ball dead. It quickly becomes clear that neither referee actually saw which player/team committed the net violation. **RULING:** Replay. **COMMENT:** Even though the net violation was obvious to everyone, the player who caused it was not. The replay is for an inadvertent whistle. Care should be taken not to blow the whistle unless the foul is actually seen.

**9.8.1 SITUATION C:** During play, the timer's audio signal sounds just as; (a) the ball is flying out of bounds, (b) Team S shanks the ball out of bounds due to the distraction. **RULING:** (a) ball out of bounds; (b) replay. **COMMENT:** If an inadvertent horn did not affect the outcome of the play, it should be disregarded. If it could have caused a distraction in the judgment of the official, a replay shall be granted.

## **UNNECESSARY DELAY**

**9.9.1 SITUATION A:** After being warned, Team S continues to huddle after each point. **RULING:** Unnecessary delay; Team S is charged a time-out and given 60 seconds. **COMMENT:** If Team S has used its allotted time-outs, point/loss of rally awarded to Team R.

**9.9.1 SITUATION B:** A substitute enters the substitution zone for Team S. The second referee recognizes the substitution and then the coach withdraws the request: Team S (a) has used one time-out; (b) has no time-outs remaining. **RULING:** (a) unnecessary delay, time-out; (b) unnecessary delay, point/loss of rally. **COMMENT:** Official signal would be unnecessary delay. Coach should be given the choice of completing the substitution OR being assessed the team delay.

**9.9.1 SITUATION C:** Team A's player No. 5 is being replaced by the libero, No. 7. However, No. 7 would be the second libero to enter the same set. **RULING:** Unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** Only one libero may be designated per set. An illegal replacement attempts to enter the set resulting in an unnecessary delay.

**9.9.1 SITUATION D:** After Team D scores a point, the libero, No. 6, enters the court to replace back-row player No. 2. The replacement occurs between the attack line and center line. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** All libero replacements must take place in the libero replacement zone, which is between the end line and attack line.

## **Rule 10 Substitution and Libero Replacement**

### **SUBSTITUTION REQUEST**

**10.1.2 SITUATION:** During a set, the coach requests a substitution: (a) before the R1 signals for the serve; (b) after the R1 signals for the serve but before the server's contact with the ball; (c) after contact has been made with the serve. **RULING:** In (a) legal, substitution permitted; (b) and (c), coach's request is ignored and play continues. In (b) and (c), after the rally, the R2 warns the coach, reminding that the request must be made BEFORE the R1 extends the arm to begin service authorization.

**10.1.3 SITUATION:** During a set, Team A's coach calls for a time-out, legally substituting as soon as time-out is granted. At the end of the time-out, after all players have returned to the court and before the R1's signal to serve, Team A's coach requests another substitution. **RULING:** Request denied. **COMMENT:** A team is allowed to substitute only one time during the same dead ball. If the R2 handles without a delay in play, a warning after the rally is sufficient.

**10.1.4 SITUATION:** A starting player for Team R is injured one minute prior to the start of set two. The coach replaces the injured player. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** An injured/ill player may be replaced and no substitution is charged to that team. If the coach requests a substitution, this is also acceptable. The difference is that an injured/ill player is not restricted from returning to play in the same set IN ANY position in the rotation.

### **SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURE**

**10.2.1 SITUATION A:** The coach stands and signals for substitution. The R2 recognizes the request. Then the coach: (a) walks over to the R2 and gives the numbers of the substitutes and the players to be replaced; (b) immediately sits down; (c) proceeds to the sideline and converses with the substitute; (d) remains at the officials table and converses with the officials. **RULING:** (a) improper substitution procedure. Second referee reminds coach to remain at the bench; (b) and (c) proper procedure; and (d) illegal substitution, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** The head coach may instruct players during a dead ball but all but one coach must be sitting down prior to the R1's signal for serve.

**10.2.1 SITUATION B:** Player A on the receiving team approaches the substitution zone as a substitute. The second referee sees Player A approaching and (a) blows the whistle before Player A gets to the attack line extended; (b) refuses to blow the whistle until Player A is above the attack line and within 3 feet of the sideline. **RULING:** (a) and (b) incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Substitutes should be across the attack line extended between the sideline and the attack line when they are recognized.

**10.2.3 SITUATION:** During the exchange, a substitute enters the court between the attack line and the end line. **RULING:** Improper substitution procedure. **COMMENT:** The second referee will direct players to make the exchange between the attack line and the net. Should this improper substitution become excessive or delay progress, an unnecessary delay shall be called.

**10.2.5 SITUATION:** A player on Team A falls and injures an ankle; the R1 interrupts play for replacement of the injured player. The procedures for legal substitution are carried out with the exception of the injured player being carried off the court. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** To prevent further injury, the injured player is not required to carry out the exchange procedures for substitution. If substitution will occur, there is no time limit in moving the injured player.

**10.2.7 SITUATION A:** On a dead ball, the coach signals the referees for a substitution before the R1 rules on the volley which just occurred. As a result of the ruling, the coach no longer wishes to substitute and returns to the bench. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** The referees had not yet recognized the request for substitution since the result of the last rally had not been given. Even if the request had been acknowledged, a change of mind by an official, an unclear result of a rally or any occasional situation where there is confusion may be resolved by allowing the team to withdraw the substitution without penalty.

**10.2.7 SITUATION B:** Two substitutes enter the substitution zone. The coach quickly tells one of the substituting players not to substitute at this time. **RULING:** If this is done quickly as to not delay the set, no violation is called.

**10.2.7 SITUATION C:** One substitute enters the substitution zone. Another runs up just after the first one enters the set. **RULING:** The second substitute is denied until after the next dead ball. **COMMENT:** If this illegal substitution procedure becomes excessive, unnecessary delay is assessed.

**10.2.7 SITUATION D:** On the third time Player A replaces Player B, they exchange places while the R2 is busy with the scorer and did not authorize the exchange. The R1 requests the substitute to go back to the attack line. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The second referee controls the speed of the substitution. The R1 may need to assist the second referee to stop the improper substitution.

## **SUBSTITUTES**

**10.3.1 SITUATION A:** After having served the ball for a point, the server is: (a) replaced by a substitute; (b) replaced by a substitute after a replay is declared; (c) replaced by a substitute after a re-serve is declared. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal; (c) illegal. **COMMENT:** A re-serve is considered part of a single attempt to serve. Therefore, no requests for set interruptions should be recognized until after the ball is served.

**10.3.1 SITUATION B:** Team A makes the following substitutions: 11 for 13 and then 9 for 11, then 12 for 9, and then 13 for 12. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** These players may enter the set an unlimited amount of times as long as the entry is in the original positions and the total number of substitutes does not exceed 18. Any number of players may enter into a position. However, none of these players may enter into a different position in the rotation order for that set.

**10.3.2 SITUATION:** The coach for Team S requests a substitution which would be: (a) the fourth entry for No. 15; (b) the 15th team substitution; (c) the sixth entry for No. 10; or (d) the 19th team substitution. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal; (d) illegal, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** Players may enter the set an unlimited number of times as long as they are in the original positions and total substitutions do not exceed the 18-team substitution maximum.

**10.3.5 SITUATION:** Two players on the receiving team hit heads while diving to retrieve a tip from the opponent. Both are injured and, in the opinion of the R1, one of the players was apparently unconscious for a short period of time. (a) the coach questions the R1's determination; (b) the R1 permits the apparently unconscious player to return to the set without written authorization. **RULING:** (a) and (b) incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The R1 shall determine whether a player in the set has been rendered apparently unconscious. If the coach persists in questioning the call, unsporting conduct could be assessed. In (b), the medical authorization permitting such a player to return to participation the same day must be in writing from a physician. In all situations, if medical coverage is on site, the R1 should defer to the medical opinion.

**10.3.6 SITUATION A:** A player from Team A is injured and there is no legal substitute available: (a) Team A has exhausted its 18 substitutions and is allowed an exceptional substitution; (b) Team A has exhausted its 18 substitutions and must now play with five players; (c) Team A has used 13 substitutions and is allowed an exceptional substitution, which will also count as its 14<sup>th</sup> substitution; (d) Team A has more than 7 players and attempts to have the libero become the exceptional substitution. **RULING:** (a) and (c) legal, (b) incorrect procedure if there are players left on the bench; (d) is illegal because the libero is the LAST in line to become an exceptional substitution. If there is ANY player available to play, that player takes precedence over the libero. Only if a team is down to 6 players does the libero become the exceptional substitution. **COMMENT:** An exceptional substitution shall count as a team substitution if the team has not exhausted its 18 team substitutions.

**10.3.6 SITUATION B:** A player on Team A, who was replaced because of injury in the first set by a substitute who had already played in that set in a different position, is granted entry into the third set. **RULING:** Legal. The only restriction on a player replaced by exceptional substitution is the player's inability to return to that set.

**10.3.6 SITUATION C:** Team S's No. 5 is injured during set two of a match. The coach has exhausted Team S substitutes. There are three players on the bench, and they have played in set No. 2 in other positions. The coach chooses to play with five players by not replacing No. 5. **RULING:** Illegal procedure. Exceptional substitution is made. **COMMENT:** Exceptional substitution allows No. 5 to be replaced by any of the three players on the bench. A team is not permitted to play short-handed if a substitution or exceptional substitution can be made.

**10.3.7 SITUATION A:** Team A was in the lead prior to set point. After the attack, three members of Team A ran onto the court in celebration, assuming the point had been scored and the set was over. The official had not signaled set point, and the three players were asked to leave the court. As the signal for serve was given, the R1 realized that one (or more) bench player(s) from Team A had not cleared the court. The R1 (a) awards a point for each illegal person on the court, (b) awards Team B one point for illegal player(s) being on the court at the time of the serve, (c) ignores the illegal players on the court, (d) ends the set since illegal players were on the court. **RULING:** (b) Correct procedure. (a), (c) and (d) incorrect procedures." **COMMENT:** Although more than one illegal player was on the court, one penalty point would pertain to all those who entered the court.

**10.3.7 SITUATION B:** Undetected by the second referee, Team S No. 4 starts the set in place of No. 14 listed on the lineup. The error is not discovered until the illegal player has rotated back to serve when the score is 5-7. The scorer informs the R2 of the wrong server after No. 4 contacts the ball for his first serve. **RULING:** Loss of rally/point and unnecessary delay are charged to Team S. **COMMENT:** No. 4 is regarded as an illegal player in the set as well as a wrong server. The unnecessary delay is for the illegal player in the set. There is no cancellation of points because the opponents have already served. The loss of rally/point is for the wrong server.

**10.3.7 SITUATION C:** A player re-enters the same set after: (a) being disqualified because of unsporting conduct; (b) being removed because of injury; (c) being removed because of injury and replaced by exceptional substitution. **RULING:** In (a), unsporting conduct; (b) legal; (c) illegal substitution, unnecessary delay. **COMMENT:** In (c), the injured player could play in subsequent sets.

**10.3.7 SITUATION D:** Player No. 34 for Team A is an illegal substitute in the set while Team A has served two points, then a loss of rally. Player No. 34 is discovered: (a) before Team B has served; (b) after Team B has served. **RULING:** Unnecessary delay. Corrections are made and, in (a), the two points are canceled; (b), the two points are not canceled.

## **LIBERO REPLACEMENT**

**10.4.4 SITUATION:** Team S No. 52 has just received red and yellow cards and is removed from further participation in the match. The coach of Team S attempts to have the libero become a substitute for the disqualified teammate. **RULING:** Illegal. **COMMENT:** Unnecessary delay is called because a libero cannot be used as a substitute for a disqualified player. Likewise, if the libero is disqualified, only the player he replaced can take the libero's place and the team must then complete the set with no libero.

## **Rule 11 Time-outs and Intermission**

### **TIME-OUT REQUESTS**

**11.2.1 SITUATION A:** The R1 sounds the whistle and visual signal for the serve. Following these signals, the coach for Team R requests: (a) time-out; (b) substitution. Seeing this, the server does not serve within five seconds of the R1's signal. **RULING:** (a) and (b) replay; time-out and substitution not granted. **COMMENT:** Since the coach's actions distracted the opponent's serve, a replay is granted. Reasonability should prevail.

**11.2.1 SITUATION B:** The R2 blows the whistle for a Team R time-out request. The R1 does not hear the whistle and signals for serve. Team S wins the rally. The R2 notifies the R1 that a whistle had been blown for a time-out prior to the signal for the serve. **RULING:** A replay is declared, and Team R is given the time-out. **COMMENT:** As a preventive technique, the R1 should scan the court before beckoning for serve.

**11.2.2 SITUATION:** Team R requests time-out prior to the start of the set and is not immediately ready to play at the end of the 60 seconds. After being charged a time-out for unnecessary delay, Team R is still not ready to play at the end of the penalty time-out. **RULING:** Unnecessary delay, point awarded to Team S and play begins immediately. **COMMENT:** Teams are warned at 45 seconds and expected to be on the court at the completion of the time-out.

**11.2.3 SITUATION A:** During the time-out, the team that requested the time-out is ready to resume play after 32 seconds. The opponent utilizes the entire 60 seconds for the time-out. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A time-out will last a maximum of 60 seconds or less if both teams are ready to play.

**11.2.3 SITUATION B:** Team R players see their coach request a time-out and begin to leave the court as the R1 is signaling for the serve. When the serve is contacted, the R2 calls illegal alignment on Team R. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The time-out begins when the R2 blows the whistle and signals that the time-out is granted. Until then, players are expected to be prepared to play.

**11.2.3 SITUATION C:** Team R's coach yells "watch out!" to the players to indicate that the opponents are now preparing to set out of the front row. Misunderstanding this, the R2 grants Team R a time-out. **RULING:** Play resumes immediately with a replay. **COMMENT:** An official should verify a request by looking at the coach before granting a time-out or substitution.

**11.2.4 SITUATION A:** During a referee's time-out, the players of Team S move to the sideline to discuss play with their coach. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** During all time-outs, teams may confer with their coaches on their court at the team bench area.

**11.2.4 SITUATION B:** During a charged time-out, Team R players: (a) practice volleys on their side of the court; (b) confer with their coach in the corner of the gym away from the court and the noise of the crowd; (c) confer with their coaches on the court on their side of the net, at the bench or on the court. **RULING:** (a) and (b) unnecessary delay; (c) legal. **COMMENT:** Teams may not practice with a ball during a time-out. Prevention should be utilized to avoid penalizing the team. The R2 may intervene quickly enough to save the UD from being charged.

## **REVIEW OFFICIAL'S DECISION**

**11.3.1 SITUATION A:** The Team R coach takes the team's last remaining time-out to speak to the R1 about a rule-related decision on the last play. As the coach and R1 talk, the 45-second warning is sounded. The coach continues the discussion until after the 60-second buzzer. The R1's decision: (a) is changed; (b) is not changed. **RULING:** (a) official's time-out, play resumes immediately, and Team R has one time-out remaining; (b) unnecessary delay; point and play must resume immediately. **COMMENT:** The procedures for a regular time-out and a time-out to review a decision are the same until the decision is changed.

**11.3.1 SITUATION B:** During a Team S time-out, the coach asks the R1 to reconsider: (a) an illegal hit call; (b) a back-row player attack call because of the height of the ball; (c) a back-row player call because the player was really the RF; (d) misapplication of a rule. **RULING:** (a) and (b) no discussion; (c) and (d) discussion continues. **COMMENT:** If the decision was incorrect and changed, play resumes immediately, and the time-out is not charged to Team S. Judgment calls, such as in (a) and (b), are not subject to review.

**11.3.2 SITUATION:** At match point for Team S, the R1 makes a questionable call against Team S. The coach calls his second time-out and asks the referees to consider viewing a parent's (a) picture on a cell phone or (b) videotape of the play to confirm the call. The referees refuse and Team S is charged with a time-out. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Video and other electronic equipment shall not be used to review questionable calls and assist in an official's decision. Referees' decisions based on judgment are final and not subject to review.

## **INJURY TIME-OUT**

**11.4.1 SITUATION A:** A player on each team is injured at the same time and the R1 interrupts play. Team A's player is able to remain in the set and is ready to play within 30 seconds. Team B's player is able and ready to stay in the set after 65 seconds. **RULING:** If the player for Team B is to remain in the set, Team B must be charged with a time-out. **COMMENT:** Even though two players are injured, only 30 seconds, not 60 seconds, is allotted for a decision to be made regarding the status of the players. However, the team is always allowed the necessary time to safely remove a player from the court.

**11.4.1 SITUATION B:** After Team R has used its allotted time-outs, a Team R player is injured. **RULING:** The player must be ready to play within 30 seconds or must be replaced. **COMMENT:** If the coach does not reach a decision within 30 seconds, it is unnecessary delay, point/loss of rally.

**11.4.1 SITUATION C:** There is a lengthy delay in the set for an injured player who is being cared for on the court. Balls are being used while waiting for the set to resume. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** The practice activity is limited to an area a safe distance away from the injured player, and is only legal during an official's time-out.

**11.4.2 SITUATION:** The official notices a player is bleeding. The official calls for an injury time-out and instructs the coach to immediately substitute for the bleeding player. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** If the player can receive proper treatment during the 30-second injury time-out, he may remain in the set, or if the coach takes a time-out and the player can receive proper treatment before the time-out has ended, the player may remain in the set.

**11.4.3 SITUATION:** Forty-five seconds prior to the second set of a match, a player listed as a starter from Team S injures an ankle and cannot begin the set. The R2 allows the coach to replace the player: (a) without penalty; (b) and informs the coach that the player may not re-enter the second set of the match. **RULING:** (a) correct procedure; (b) incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** A coach may replace an injured/ill player prior to the set without penalty. An injured/ill player may re-enter as a substitute in the set. When a player listed as a starter is replaced without penalty due to illness or injury, this player may later substitute into any position in the rotation for that set.

## **BETWEEN SETS**

**11.5.1 SITUATION A:** Between sets, Team A: (a) stays on the court to practice; (b) goes into the locker room; (c) starts hitting balls on its own court while Team B rests on the bench. **RULING:** Legal. **COMMENT:** Balls cannot be hit over the net between sets; players may warm up on their respective court. Players must keep balls in area away from opponent.

**11.5.1 SITUATION B:** Following the first set, Team A returns to the floor and is ready to play after two minutes have elapsed. Team B is not in position to play until: (a) two minutes have expired; (b) two minutes, 30 seconds have expired; (c) three minutes, fifteen seconds have expired. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal; (c) unnecessary delay by Team B. **COMMENT:** If BOTH teams are ready, the referees may begin play before three minutes have elapsed between sets, providing all officials are in position and ready.

## **Rule 12 Conduct**

### **GENERAL CONDUCT**

**12.1.1 SITUATION A:** At the end of the warm-ups, Team S players go to their bench and remove their warm-up shirts to change into uniform tops. The referees ignore the incident. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** Removing any part of the uniform outside the dressing room or other private area shall be dealt with by the official with a verbal warning to the coach. State associations may have specific policies regarding removal of uniforms in the competition area.

**12.2.1 SITUATION B:** A person who is not a player, a coach, a manager, a trainer or a physician for Team R is seated on the team bench and behaves in an unsporting manner. **RULING:** Red card issued for unsporting conduct, point/loss of rally. **COMMENT:** There is no specific rule regarding who may sit on the team bench (9-1-1), but anyone seated on the bench is subject to rules governing team conduct. In this case, the second referee requested the red card for unsporting conduct of a nature that warranted an immediate penalty. When the person at fault cannot be identified, the red card is issued to the head coach for failure to control the bench. The head coach may no longer stand for instruction during dead ball.

**12.2.1 SITUATION C:** At the end of set 1, No. 12 on Team S directs an obscene gesture toward the stands: (a) after a kill on set point; (b) while the teams are changing courts between sets. **RULING:** (a) and (b) unsporting conduct. **COMMENT:** The card(s) is administered at the beginning of the next set. The severity of the sanction will depend on the degree of unsporting conduct demonstrated by No. 12.

## **COACHES CONDUCT**

**12.2.1 SITUATION D:** A coach repeatedly verbally abuses his/her players. The R1 administers a yellow card or even a read to the coach. **RULING:** Correct procedure. **COMMENT:** The coach's conduct is unsporting and disrespectful. Coaching staff does not lose privilege to stand on dead ball or any coach to stand and coach on a live ball.

**12.2.5 SITUATION A:** The coach from Team S enters the court to meet with the team: (a) during a timeout; (b) between sets. **RULING:** (a) and (b) legal.

**\*12.2.5 SITUATION B:** The coach of Team R stands at the bench to greet a replaced player and continues to provide instruction to players on the court. The second referee notices that the coach is outside the libero replacement zone and in the substitution zone. **RULING:** Warning, yellow card is administered by the first referee for a minor unsporting conduct violation. The scorer records the card in the comments section of the scoresheet. **COMMENT:** The head coach loses the privilege to stand at the bench during a dead ball under 12-2-6 but, for OHSBVA, the head coach and the rest of the coaching staff do not lose the privilege to stand and coach. Preventive officiating might avoid the need for a card.

**\*12.2.6 SITUATION:** The head coach of Team S received a yellow card. On the next dead ball, the head coach of Team S is standing providing instruction to players. The head coach is issued a red card by the first referee. **RULING:** Correct procedure for NFHS (12-2-6, Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations), but incorrect procedure for OHSBVA. **COMMENT:** While it is true that, for NFHS/OHSAA, when the head coach or any team bench personnel receives a card, yellow or red, the head coach loses the privilege during play and dead balls to coach his/her players. A head coach who continues to stand commits a second minor offense and is issued a red card and a loss of rally/point is awarded to the opponent. However, this is not the case for OHSBA. When the head coach, an assistant coach or any team bench personnel receive a sanction card or cards during an OHSBVA match, the coaching staff does not lose the privilege to stand during a dead ball to coach their players or to have one coach stand to coach on a live ball. A coach who receives a sanction for disruptive coaching is allowed to stand at the risk of progressive penalties for further disruptive coaching such as addressing comments about judgment calls, addressing the R1 across the court or an assistant coach continuing to address the R2.

## **BENCH CONDUCT**

**12.2.7 SITUATION A:** A non-playing team member of Team A leaves the bench to: (a) warm up; (b) receive medical attention; (c) get a drink. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) legal; (d) illegal. **COMMENT:** (a) balls may not be used during such a warm-up just prior to entering the set, and the warm-up must take place in a non-playable area so as not to interfere with the set in progress.

**12.2.7 SITUATION B:** The libero for Team B stands stretching behind the team bench whenever he leaves the court. **RULING:** The second referee directs the coach to have the player be seated on the bench. **COMMENT:** Rule 12-2-7 is intended to allow players to warm up for entry into the contest. It is not appropriate for team members who will be re-entering the context to continually stand in non-playable area. For OHSBVA, players must be seated on the bench unless warming up in preparation to enter the set or, ONLY if all chairs are occupied, may stand beyond the end of the bench in line with the chairs.

## PLAYER CONDUCT

**12.2.8 SITUATION A:** A player on Team S uses profanity directed to the R1 in response to a decision. The R1 disqualifies the player for unsporting conduct and: (a) penalizes Team S with a point/loss of rally, and the R2 notifies the coach of the reason for the disqualification; (b) expels the player from the gymnasium; (c) directs the player to the bench area or to the supervision of authorized school personnel. **RULING:** (b) incorrect procedure; (a) and (c) correct procedure. **COMMENT:** Referees should take care not to insist that players who are disqualified be removed from a facility unless under the direct supervision of authorized school or security personnel. A disqualified player may remain on the team bench, but it is the coach's responsibility to ensure that the player is under control at all times. Further instances of misconduct by a disqualified player shall be penalized and shall result in contest forfeiture. Cards carry over from set to set throughout a match.

**12.2.8 SITUATION B:** At the pre-match conference, the coach for Team A verified legality of his/her players. During warm-up, however, it is discovered that (a) No. 12 is wearing an eye piercing; (b) No. 5 is wearing a rubber band on his wrist; (c) No. 8 is wearing a live-strong bracelet. The referees warn the coach that players can't play or warm up wearing jewelry. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) correct procedure. **COMMENT:** A player is not permitted to wear jewelry or illegal equipment during warm-ups or the set. Failure to comply with the verbal warning results in unsporting conduct. The second time jewelry or any other illegal equipment is found by the same team by a player on the court or attempting to enter a set during the rest of the match results in a loss of rally.

**12.2.9 SITUATION A:** A player from Team A is berating a: (a) team member; (b) spectator; (c) coach. **RULING:** (a), (b) and (c) unsporting conduct violation. **COMMENT:** Disrespectful and offensive behavior will not be tolerated when witnessed by a referee.

**12.2.9 SITUATION B:** After a call that gives a point to Team S, a Team R player on the floor uses a profanity directed at the official. The R2 clearly hears it, but decides not to penalize anyone on Team R because the R2 did not see who said it. **RULING:** Incorrect procedure, red card is given the head coach. **COMMENT:** When unsporting behavior occurs on the bench or court and officials cannot identify the player, this penalty (red card) should be issued to the head coach.

**12.2.9 SITUATION C:** The visiting team arrives with two head coaches. During the pre-match conference, the R1 asks for a designation of one head coach for the match. **RULING:** Proper procedure. **COMMENT:** Only the head coach may stand request set interruptions or address the referees.

**12.2 SITUATION A:** (Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations,) The line call of a hard-driven spike landing close to the line causes Player No. 5 of Team A to show disgust and say, "Looks like we're getting a home job!" Player No. 33 of Team A, who is on the bench, stands up and shouts an obscenity at the official. **RULING:** Unsporting conduct on both players. Player No. 5 is issued a yellow card, and Player No. 33 is issued a red and yellow card disqualifying him from the match. **COMMENT:** When there are multiple unsporting conduct offenses, all offenses are penalized.

**12.2 SITUATION B:** (Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations, 11) Because Team A is angry after losing, it refuses to follow end-of-set procedure for charging team benches: (a) at the end of set one; (b) again after a non-deciding set. **RULING:** (a) unsporting conduct, red card issued to the head coach; (b) unsporting conduct, red and yellow card administered to the head coach who is disqualified and removed from the premises. **COMMENT:** Penalties (point/loss of rally) are awarded at the beginning of the following set.

## SPECTATOR CONDUCT

**12.3 SITUATION A:** A spectator becomes unruly to a point of disrupting the set. The R1: (a) gives a yellow card to the coach of the team for whom the fan is yelling; (b) approaches the spectator and tells him to leave the facility. **RULING:** (a) and (b) incorrect procedure. **COMMENT:** The R1 should suspend the set until host management resolves the situation. Once the situation is resolved, the match should be resumed from the point of suspension, with the score and lineups the same as when suspended.

**12.3 SITUATION B:** During the course of the set, (a) when Team B serves, a loud horn is blown every time Team B is preparing to serve; (b) a fan is yelling “miss it” as the player serves; (c) the crowd is noisily cheering for its team. **RULING:** (a) and (b) illegal; (c) legal. **COMMENT:** The R1 shall suspend play until host management resolves the situation. Artificial noisemakers are prohibited. Fans are encouraged to cheer for their own teams.

## OHSBVA EXCEPTIONS TO NFHS RULES – 2010 SEASON –

### **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 the OBSVCA 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 set 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 lineup 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 can 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 first referee’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. One Substitute in the Sub Zone at a Time (replacement for 8. Ball Contacting the Body) and Libero Exchanges after a Substitution [NFHS RULE CHANGE – NOT RULE EXCEPTION]**

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 AND 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.**

## **9. 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.

## **10. 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.

## **11. 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).

## 12. Set and Match Totals

Each player may play in up to six (6) sets 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.

## 13. 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 does not have a rules exception allowing lineup submission showing players in their initial court/floor positions. Lineups should be submitted in proper serve order. If a lineup is submitted in player floor positions, the referees will ensure that the head coach converts the lineup to serve order (as shown below) and will facilitate this process.**

### 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**

<b>3</b>	<b>8c</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>

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

**NET**

<b>8c</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

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) who will be the first server. If the team is the receiving team to start the match, the team's first server is the player in position II (RF).

## 2009-10 NFHS Major Rule Changes

- 2-1-1 Clarifies the court and the adjacent playable area must be flat, smooth and free of obstructions other than required equipment and padding.  
**Rationale:** Clarifies court/floor requirements for playable area.  
**For OHSBVA, this rule change makes good sense and is something that our officials should have been requiring already. Where there are floor obstacles that are not movable, ground rules must be set that support a safe playing environment.**
- 3-2-1 Beginning in 2010-11, the set ball may be either solid white or a maximum combination of three colors (with each panel being a solid color) and of which at least one-third of the panels shall be solid white.  
**Rationale:** Allows for the optional use of the colored-panel ball beginning with the 2010-11 season. The colored-panel ball makes it easier to track for players/spectators and adds excitement to the set.  
**For OHSBVA, this rule change will – in one more year – put OHSAA and OHSBVA on the same page in terms of allowing a multi-colored ball. However, we have to wait for the OHSAA to determine whether to contract for a red-white-and-blue volleyball such as the Molten Super-Touch for girls’ volleyball while the OHSBVA uses the ball is designed for the boys’ set, the Molten Pro-Touch.**
- 4-1-5 Unadorned bobby pins, no longer than 2 inches, may be worn to control a player’s hair.  
**Rationale:** Allows players a practical means of dealing with hair control.  
**For OHSBVA, this rule change is inconsequential.**
- 5-3-4d Prior to the deciding set, captains will be called for the coin toss by the R1 and then teams shall be released to their team bench.  
**Rationale:** Releasing teams to their bench rather than the end line during the deciding-set coin toss will allow coaches to provide instruction and facilitate players being ready to take the court for the final set.  
**For OHSBVA, this rule change makes total sense. The guys are already confused by the USAV rule vs. current OHSBVA rule that has the players on the end lines while the captains attend the coin toss for the deciding set (now called “set” to match the rest of the volleyball world). Let the players receive coaching while the coin toss occurs!**
- 5-4-3b New 10 The R2 has the responsibility to manage illegal libero replacements.  
**Rationale:** Adds to the responsibilities of the second referee.  
**For OHSBVA, it is unclear what this changes. The R2 always had to deal with the consequences of an illegal libero replacement, frequently unaided by the libero tracker.**

- 9-4-5 A legal contact is a touch of the ball by any part of the player's body.  
**Rationale:** In today's fast-paced game, allowing legal contact of the ball by any part of the player's body will assist in keeping the ball in play and provide longer and more exciting rallies.  
**For OHSBVA, this makes OHSAA rules come into line with something that has been allowed for boys' volleyball for some time.**
- 10-2-3 If more than one substitution is to occur, 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.  
**Rationale:** The procedure of recording multiple substitutions becomes easier for the scorer to record. This will speed up the substitution process and assist in maintaining the tempo of play.  
**For OHSBVA, this makes total sense. Multiple substitutes entering the sub zone, especially with an inexperienced scorer, can cause delays that are preventable. In the USAV and college games, subs are processed sequentially without appreciable delay.**
- 12-2-5 Clarifies when an assistant coach may stand and actions the coach may perform.  
**Rationale:** Clarifies the role and bench decorum of the assistant coach now that the head coach has the privilege to stand during the match.  
**For OHSBVA, this would allow an assistant coach during a dead ball to address the R2 to verify the team's serving order (line-up check), that the opponent's server is correct, that the score is accurate, number of time-outs used or number of subs used or, with referee permission, attend to an injured player. An assistant coach is still not allowed to question judgment calls of the officials or address the officials other than to ask for the above-noted interruption requests. What hasn't changed is that the head coach may also ask for the same types of information noted above and is the only coach who may call a time-out or request a substitution (verbally or by signal).**
- 12-2-6, 9-1-1 During play, allows the head coach to stand in the replacement zone, no closer to the sideline than 6 feet, to coach his/her players.  
**Rationale:** Due to the growing spectator popularity, resulting in louder crowd noise, this change will allow the head coach to communicate more effectively with his/her players. The permitted location for standing preserves the necessary area for clear line of sight by the second referee and line judges to observe play and playable area around the court for the players.  
**For OHSBVA, this should encourage using the same distance (6 feet) instead of 1.75 meters (5'10"). Coaches struggle with staying back.**

### Major Editorial Changes

1-2-1, 3, 4-1 Heading, 10-3-5, 11-4-2, How to Use the Signals: 4, 19, 20, 21; Casebook: 4-1, 10-3-5, Signals: New b, 6 NOTE, 13, 20, 21, 23

### Points of Emphasis

1. Head Coach Standing
2. Match Officials' Responsibilities
3. Ball Handling
4. Libero Uniform