

Volleyball Coaches,

Greetings - hope to find you in good health. We are encouraging our officials to wear their mask at all times when they officiate volleyball games. However, the UIL did not mandate that stipulation to TASO volleyball officials. If your school district is going to have a mandate (on face covering) beyond the rules and regulations set forth by the UIL, please text Mario Reyna at 956-342--0547 so I can share such information with our volleyball officials.

Thanks,

Mario Reyna, Chapter President/District 6 Director

## **2020-21 NFHS Volleyball – NEW RULES**

### **Protective Face Mask: 4-1-4 (NEW)**

- Players may protect facial injuries by wearing a protective face mask.
- The mask must be made of a hard material free of protrusions and molded to the face.

### **Roster submissions: 7-1-1; 7-1-1 Penalties; 7-1-1 Penalties 2 (new); 9-9-1a (new); 10-3-7b**

- When a team roster is not ready for submission during the prematch conference, but is provided before 10 minutes remaining on the clock...
- The penalty is no longer a loss of rally/point.
- It is now an unnecessary delay (administrative yellow card) assessed at the start of the set.

### **Correcting a submitted lineup: 7-1-4a(1) & 7-1-4a(2) New**

- If a clerical error is made on the lineup by listing a libero number that no team member is wearing, the error shall be corrected without penalty.

### **Unsporting Yellow Card Penalty: 12-2-6**

- When a yellow card is issued for unsporting conduct to the head coach, assistant coach(es) or team bench the head coach will no longer be required to remain seated.
- If a red unsporting conduct card is issued to the head coach, assistant coach(es) or team bench, the head coach will be required to remain seated for the duration of the match.

### **New substitution signal for referee: Signal #15**

- When a team requests a substitution, the official will administer two short whistles.
- The official will rotate his/her forearms around each other with closed hands at shoulder height two times to signal the substitution.

### **Rules Reminder: Legal uniform 4-2-4c**

- Beginning with the 2023 season, the body of the uniform number must clearly contrast from the body of the uniform regardless of trim.

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## **VOLLEYBALL SAFETY PROTOCOLS - INFORMATION**

Gaiters worn by players:

Players can wear the gaiter around their neck during play. No penalty should be imposed for it being around the neck and not pulled up. Gaiters do not need to be matching for a team. Gaiters do not need to be school colors.

Regular masks that fall off during play. Safety is judged by the referees. If the official feels it is a safety issue, stop play and resume with a replay.

Serving the ball:

Do we 'share' serve as we always do, or can we serve separately? We are flexible with what coaches wish to do. Make this decision at the pre-match conference. We are hitting the same ball during the match so there is little difference with contact of the ball between serve and play. If we share serve, players could use hand sanitizer at the conclusion of serve time when they return to their bench. - If teams decide at the pre-match conference that they wish to serve separately, each team's warm-up time should be adjusted with them serving immediately after hitting. FOR EXAMPLE. Usual warm-up time is 5-5-2. [5 hitting minutes/visitor; 5 hitting minutes/home team and 2 minutes serving time together]. If teams decide to serve separately, their hit/service time would be 7 minutes total which includes their serve time. Visitor hits/serves for 7 minutes and then home team hits/serves for 7 minutes.

Pepper Time when not on the net: Usually we pepper/warm-up behind the team that is hitting at the net. Do we still do that? Again, we are flexible with what coaches wish to do. Make this decision at the pre-match conference.

Suggestions:

If we are in a large facility (for example a coliseum), there is ample room for a team to pepper/warm-up as always at the end of the court behind the hitting team without issues... plenty of space. If there is a tunnel or other area that is large and away from the court, peppering could be there. In a tight gym, there might be a hallway that can be utilized. Or in smaller facilities, teams can go to their bench area and rest during this time.

Linesmen: Do linesmen stand on their team's side of the net? For the purposes of social distancing, it would probably be better for linesmen to stand on their own team's side of the net. If the referee feels that the linesperson is not being fair with calls, he/she can always replace that linesperson.

UIL has outlined their policies with respect to teams, bench staff and coaches wearing face masks and social distancing. The officials will not be involved in policing either of these items. Should there not be enough seating for all players because of social distancing, officials will allow players to stand behind the bench.

The Ball: Should the ball be sanitized during the match? That would be the school's decision.

Volleyball Sleeves: As a reminder, sleeves are legal and can be any color.

Whistle:— regular vs electronic - Regular whistles are preferred unless a mask is worn.

*Be Safe! Stay Healthy!*

### **Additional Clarifications: COVID Consideration**

Some questions and situations have come up during the first couple of weeks of play, so further clarification is needed as we approach the start of the 5A and 6A season.

## Coaches and masks

Statement: UIL has asked that all coaches (and bench personnel) wear a mask before, during and after the match and has requested that referees turn in an incident report if teams (including coaches) are not following that order. An official may submit a report if they feel a lack of compliance is compromising safety.

Clarification: The referees are not responsible for monitoring the wearing of the masks during the match. A coach may be struggling to be heard by his players and may pull the mask aside to achieve that goal or may want to catch his breath without the mask and may take it off when he is not close to his players. Again, the referees need not monitor these situations, as their attention should be on the match. An incident report should be submitted if the official feels that lack of compliance is compromising safety.

## Team Benches, Players Standing and Players and Social Distancing

Statement: Players on the bench must wear masks. Maintaining social distancing is suggested but not required when the bench players are wearing masks.

Clarification: There are a number of options for players who are not on the court during the match but there are some guidelines with each option.

Chairs may be several feet apart and may extend past the end line or a team may choose to have two rows of chairs. A player playing the ball is not permitted to pass through the chairs to play the ball behind the bench. Additionally, a bench player interfering with a teammate playing the ball will cost her team a loss of rally.

All chairs (except the head coach's chair) must have a person sitting in it. If a team wants more players to stand, then some of the chairs may be removed.

Bench players, who are standing, must be a minimum of 6 feet from the court during play or may stand behind the bench. If they approach the court to applaud a good play, they must quickly resume their positions away from the court so that the tempo of the match is not disrupted. The referee should warn the team and then penalize them with an administrative yellow card, if the match continues to be disrupted.

The referees' responsibilities are to enforce the rules as written in the Rule Book with the few exceptions that have been introduced because of the pandemic. It is NOT the referees' job to enforce social distancing of the coaches or the players on or off the court or the wearing of masks during play. It is the coach's responsibility to enforce the pandemic safety rules for his players and it is the referees' job to officiate the match and observe all of the safety rules that have been written specifically for the referees. Take care of yourself, work with your partner and do a great job officiating the match.