



The New York State Certified Volleyball Officials' Association

Rules Modifications and Procedures Manual 2024-2025

The Manual

Preface

New York State Certified Volleyball Officials' Organization (NYSCVOA) is responsible for providing volleyball officiating services to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) member schools. NYSCVOA and NYSPHSAA share a contractual agreement that outlines the conditions of the service NYSCVOA is to provide to the volleyball programs across New York State.

There are several committees that comprise the NYSPHSAA organization. Two committees recognized by NYSPHSAA are the Boys division and Girls division of volleyball section representatives. These committees directly impact the rules that NYSCVOA officials must enforce. Compilations of suggested "best practice" from these discussions are known as the *New York State Rule Modifications*. These modifications may differ slightly from NCAA rules, yet are of equal importance and must be implemented consistently throughout New York State.



This manual was developed in part to act as a quick reference to the *New York State Rule Modifications* that have been approved by NYSPHSAA. The information contained herein is to be upheld and properly enforced during all NYSPHSAA interscholastic volleyball competitions.

This manual also contains match procedures and officiating techniques that have been adopted by the interpretation and exam committees of NYSCVOA. These NYSPHSAA approved practices will be consistently followed by every NYSCVOA official. NYSPHSAA member schools are aware and expect officials to conduct interscholastic volleyball contests according to these approved procedures.



Officials needing a NYSCVOA or NCAA rule interpretation or clarification may contact their local board chair or board interpreter. The board chair or interpreter must consult the NYSCVOA rules interpreter for further assistance. Please refrain from contacting the NCAA secretary-rules editor directly as there may be a different interpretation or technique for high school play.

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Officiating Equipment

Uniform – required items

Approved NYSCVOA shirt
Dark navy dress slacks
White socks
White sneakers
Whistle with a navy blue, white or black lanyard
Sanction cards
Coin

Optional Items

Black or navy belt
Approved NYSCVOA wind jacket
Approved NYSCVOA sweater
Navy dress shorts may be worn per NYSCVOA Constitution and By-Laws.
(Check local board policy as shorts may not be permissible)
Electronic whistle with a lanyard (colors above)
Headset

**For post-season play it is important for the official teams to match.
The first referee and second referee must match.
The 2 or 4 lines judges must match.**

All uniform options must be available on site for all post-season play assignments. The (committee) selected official is responsible to bring all approved uniform options.

Certified officials must refrain from wearing excessive jewelry.

Once the match officials are courtside, only approved NYSCVOA apparel is acceptable.

Cell phones and other devices are not part of the official uniform and should not be worn or used during a match.

Guidelines for the use of Headsets:

Less is more. One word assistance (repeat)

Do not replace an officials' conference with the head set

- Get together and discuss

Do not replace discreet signals or assistance (pre-match). Such as:

- Ball down
- Back-row
- 4-hits

Head sets are not for continuous conversations. Talking in the head sets continuously can lead to communication break down and missed faults. Be careful of perceptions – smiles, laughter, frowns can be misunderstood.

NYSCVOA officials should have the following courtside:

- NYSCVOA Rules and Procedures Manual
- NCAA Rules and Interpretation Book
- A device to measure the net height
- A device to check the ball pressure
- A device to modify the ball pressure
- A watch or time piece (not a cell phone, tablet, pad, etc....)
- A navy blue, black or white whistle/electronic whistle on a navy blue, black or white lanyard
 - *A pink whistle and/or lanyard may be worn for dig pink events
- Flags for the lines judges if applicable (optional)
- Line up forms, NYSCVOA scoresheets and Libero Tracking sheets

Professional Protocol

Prior to the start of any Volleyball contest, locate the site supervisor or event manager. Crowd control will be the responsibility of the site supervisor or event manager. If there is no manager or supervisor available, crowd control rests with the home/host coach.

- ✓ Upon arrival at the host site, introduce yourself to the host coach and obtain any additional information necessary to conduct the match (e.g. national anthem, senior night, playing all three JV sets, etc....)
- ✓ After the team representatives' meeting, introduce yourself to the coach of the visiting team and relay all pertinent information received from the host coach and include the results of the coin toss.
 - There are two options for the coin toss procedure: have the visiting team representative call the coin while it is in the air, or call the coin prior to the toss.
 - Always confirm the call with the other official or the opponent's team representative.

No official will address a spectator. Contact site supervisor/coach.

Limit court side discussions with coaches and athletes. Avoid the appearance of favoritism or bias.

Refrain from physical contact with the athletes.

The first referee (R1) will remain on the stand for the duration of the match. Refer to NCAA rule book for unusual situations when the R1 may vacate the stand.

NYSCVOA officials should refrain from commenting on any social media and networking site(s). Comments or pictures that potentially could result in harm or the perception of bias should be avoided both on and off the court.

NYSCVOA officials do not promote items associated with volleyball vendors, bidders or contracts for merchandise. Officials will not promote a specific company or item.

The officials should arrive and leave the playing site together.

NYSCVOA officials should not participate in post-match discussion with coaches, spectators, media or team personnel.

Prompt departure from the court area is strongly encouraged.

The procedure (below) is strongly recommended for all contests as it requires officials remain together after completion of the match. The officials should exit the playing area together.

- ✓ The R1 will exit the ladder to the right once the signal has been given for the teams to meet at the net and shake hands.
- ✓ The R1 will proceed toward the lines judge (LJ-1).
- ✓ The lines judge (LJ-1) will join the R1 as soon as possible.
- ✓ The second referee (R2) will meet the lines judge (LJ-2) and then proceed to a pre – determined area.
- ✓ The R1 and LJ-1 will proceed to the same pre – determined area.
- ✓ The officiating team will meet at the pre – determined area and exit the playing area together
- ✓ The exit strategy (gathering belongings, etc....) needs to be discussed amongst all the officials prior to the start of the contest.

This end of match protocol is used for State Championship and Regional matches.

For regular season play and when lines judges are **not** used, the officials should decide on an exit strategy that will best serve exiting the facility safely, quickly and with minimal team, spectator contact.

Ball Handling Directives

- ✓ Consistency in ball handling judgment is paramount.
- ✓ Only the contact point should be considered when determining legality of the contact.
- ✓ Outside influences such as player technique, spin, coaches' expectations or crowd reaction should not be considered when judging the legality of the contact.
- ✓ There is no body/ball position or playing technique that automatically results in illegal contact.
- ✓ Successive contacts on a third team hit is a fault and should be whistled immediately

Ball Handling Directives (continued)

- ✓ A caught or thrown ball, or prolonged contact with the ball on any team hit is a fault, irrespective of what happens after the ball is played.
- ✓ The language in NCAA Rule 14.2.3.1 only allows successive contacts on a team's second hit if the ball is next contacted by a teammate.

NYSPHSAA Handbook and Committee Rulings

Sneakers will be worn by line judges and any participant that is on the playing surface. Enforce players' jewelry per the NCAA rules book.

A NYSPHSAA waiver is necessary for equipment worn by a student athlete beyond the scope of the NCAA rules book.

The sportsmanship card must be read at every contest and all post-season matches.

Spectator participation is allowed during competition. There is no approved modification or rule that supports being quiet during execution of the serve.

Actions NOT allowed by spectators are: calling out the athlete's name, number or making racial, religious, sexual or derogatory comments. Constantly interrupting play or encroaching on the playing area is not allowed.

Throwing objects and artificial noise makers are not allowed. Check local section policy.

New York State Approved Rules Modifications

Rule 1: Facilities and Equipment

The playing court may have end lines and sidelines that are interrupted.

Attack line extensions are not required to play a match.

The referee stand and platform may or may not be distributed evenly behind the pole. The ladder may or may not be distributed evenly at the back of the referee platform. The referee stand shall be placed on the opposite side of the court from the team benches.

Rule 2: The Net and Related Equipment

The net height for NYSPHSAA interscholastic men's competition will be 7 feet 11 5/8 inches

The net height for both men's and women's competition must measure correctly at the center. The two ends must measure the same and should not be more than 3/4 inch higher than the center of the net.

Rule 5: Teams

If a coach is not available, the playing captain may NOT assume the duties and responsibilities of a coach.

Rule 6: Individual and Team Sanctions

Officials are unsure when to sanction a coach, player or other team member.

One recommendation is when the person is distracting the attention of an official away from match duties, it is time for a sanction.

When the first referee assesses a sanction, the proper procedure is to whistle, display appropriate card on correct side of the net, and notify the floor captain. The second referee will notify the coach and scorer.

Officials will not remove a disqualified team member from the playing surface, bench or spectator areas. Sanctions will be assessed to the head coach for any further disruptions caused by a disqualified player.

Rule 7: Players' Equipment

An individual may have a different number when changing from a regular team uniform jersey to a libero jersey.

A libero jersey may not be passed among teammates.

Neoprene sleeves are not considered part of the uniform and may be multiple colors. Neoprene sleeves are considered necessary personal equipment.

Jewelry is not permitted below the chin. (See NCAA Rule 7.2.2).
Body jewelry, ear gauges, large hoop earrings are **not** legal.

- ✓ A player wearing illegal visible jewelry should be asked politely to remove it. Prompt removal of jewelry is required.
- ✓ A player should **not** have any taped jewelry. Have the player remove it.
- ✓ A player on the court with jewelry will result in a team delay sanction, only if the removal causes a delay in the game. Prompt removal is required.

Feathers, beads or extensions worn in the hair must be legally secured.

Facial paint will not be worn during warm-ups or competition.

Hard plastic headbands are not legal.

Spacers/gauges and plugs in the ears or anywhere on the body are not legal.

Contact local Chapter/Board Rules Interpreter if questions arise regarding the legality of players' equipment (Daith piercing) beyond the scope of the NCAA rules as a NYSPHSAA waiver may be required.

The Administrative Red Card (ARC) is used when a team's uniforms are not in compliance. When just one player is out of compliance and the school is unable to find an appropriate uniform, please follow the procedure at the top of page eleven.

Illegal uniform issues will be handled following the steps below. The libero uniform is exempt from this modification.

- ✓ Notify the coach of the team at fault to determine whether the uniform can be brought into compliance. The coach will legalize the uniform for the team member.
- ✓ If the uniform cannot be legalized, discuss with the opposing coach to determine whether a protest will be filed.
- ✓ If no protest is filed at the time of the discussion, no future protest will be accepted in regards to uniform compliance.
- ✓ If the coach wishes to protest, record the events per the rule book. Play the match and file the proper paperwork regarding the protest.

Rule 8: Scoring and Duration of Matches

Boys' and girls' junior varsity and modified scoring:

- ✓ All sets of a match are 25 points.
- ✓ A team must win by two.
- ✓ No point cap is in effect for any set.

Teams switch sides when one team reaches 13 points in the deciding set.

The 25 point **non** – deciding score sheet will be used when a team has won the first two sets of the match and the third set is exhibition.

Rule 9: Protocols

Electronic whistle (optional)

- ✓ Choose an appropriate sound
- ✓ The whistle should be on a long lanyard. The whistle should be waist/belt height.
- ✓ To begin a rally, hold the whistle in the hand on the receiving team's side of the net. Sound the whistle and then beckon for serve.
- ✓ During the rally, if more comfortable, change the whistle to your dominant hand. Make the transfer discreetly.
- ✓ To end a rally/set/match, sound the whistle, release the whistle and follow appropriate signal sequence for the situation.
- ✓ The whistle should not be in either hand when doing the signal sequence.

Meet with the team representatives for ground rules and coin toss. The clock for the warm-up period will not begin until the team representatives are released (Girls only). Check local board policy for the total time to be set on the clock. There is no hitting or serving during shared court time.

	(Start clock and meet with team reps)
Girls' protocol: set clock 23 minutes:	Boys' protocol: set clock 25 minutes
23-19 minutes shared court	25-20 minutes shared court
19-15 4 minutes visitors court	20-15 5 minutes visitors court
15-11 4 minutes home court	15-10 5 minutes home court
11-6 5 minutes visitors court	10-5 5 minutes visitor court
6-1 5 minutes home court	5-0 5 minutes home court
1-0 **see below <u>no</u> whistle/horn	

Warning whistles are blown at 15 seconds for each segment of time. The horn will terminate each segment (exception: The final minute for girls will have no warning whistle or horn).

****The Final Minute of the Girls' Pre-match Warm-up**

After completion of the timed pre-match warm-up and the court is made ready for play, team introductions and the national anthem will commence immediately. The one minute remaining on the clock will begin after the national anthem and team introductions. If there are no team introductions and/or national anthem the one minute on the clock will start after the court is made ready for play. In both situations the teams have one minute to get the starters on the end line and for play to begin after the court has been cleared.

The warm-up clock will run **continuously** stopping only for injury, safety issues, equipment failure or as stated above (girls' pre-match warm-up).

The team that does not have exclusive use of the court must be out of the playing area.

Rule 10: Team Lineup and Rotation Order

The coach must initial/sign the first set of the lineup sheet. Coaches must be designated on the lineup sheet for the first set of the match.

The second referee will indicate the captain with an open hand or a hand shaped like a 'C'. The captain will acknowledge the first referee and the first referee will acknowledge the captain in a professional manner.

If the captain changes, the second referee will use a distinct whistle as necessary and indicate the replacement captain using the procedure above.

Rule 11: Game Interruptions

Girls only: The length of all timeouts in a match is 75 seconds.

Boys only: The length of all timeouts in a match is 60 seconds.

- ✓ The second referee will notify the coach when the second timeout has been issued for the set. Do not use NCAA signal 14 (timeout) when relaying the information.
- ✓ After the timeout request is acknowledged, the second referee will signal to the first referee the number of timeouts charged to each team.
- ✓ The second referee will blow a warning whistle 15 seconds prior to the end of the timeout. Instruct the scoreboard operator to sound a horn at the end.
- ✓ If the timeout ends prior to the 15 second warning whistle, the second referee will blow a whistle when both teams are on the court ready to play followed by the horn to end the timeout. Stop the clock. Avoid an inadvertent horn.
- ✓ After the timeout, the second referee will indicate the number taken by each team to all match participants and the R1 will mirror the R2. Release the court to the first referee using the release of court signal.

The number of team substitutions in a set is 18. The procedure for authorizing a substitution is as follows:

- ✓ After the substitution request is acknowledged, the second referee will step back towards the score table in such a manner as to allow the scorer to visualize the players entering and leaving the court. The second referee should not have her/his back to the non – substituting team. Stay square to the court.

- ✓ The second referee will relay the numbers to the scorer, stating the player's number entering the court followed by the player leaving.
- ✓ After authorization for entry, the second referee will ensure the scorer is ready to resume play, scan both benches for additional requests, assume the base position for the next rally, and then releases the court using the release of court signal.
- ✓ The first referee will mimic the second referee's substitution signal without whistling.

Both substitution and timeout signals (whistled by the R2) will be mimicked by the R1 during the match. The R1 will not blow a whistle.

When a substitution is whistled prematurely by the second referee, the proper procedure is as follows:

- ✓ The second referee will touch palm to center of chest and then release the court to the first referee using the release of court signal (palm faces net). (Slide 31 on the NYSCVOA website)

The second referee will notify the first referee upon completion of the eighteenth team substitution.

The second referee will notify the coach when the fifteenth through eighteenth team substitutions are used. The coach may not protest if the information is not provided.

- ✓ Do not use NCAA signal 15 (substitution) when relaying this information to the coach or first referee.

Distinct whistles are used during the match.

- ✓ 2 short whistle blasts for substitution, timeout or when identifying the replacement captain.
- ✓ Several short whistle blasts for a player/court safety issue.
- ✓ Louder and crisper when starting a rally or selling a call
- ✓ Crisp and concise for routine plays

Rule 12: Boy's Only – The 2 Libero Player System

Varsity and Junior varsity programs.

Check local section policy for modified programs.

If a team is going to use 2 libero players, the team **must** designate 2 libero players on the **first set** of the lineup sheet.

- ✓ When the lineup sheet allows for 2 libero players and only one libero is noted by the coach, an 'X' is necessary on the second libero line. If the 'X' is not recorded, the R2 will check with the coach. If no second libero player is designated by the coach, the coach or R2 will place an X next to the D on the lineup, score and tracking sheets.

The coach can change the libero players every set.

Either libero can serve during the set in one position. Service order must be maintained. There must be a completed rally between libero replacements.

Only one libero may be on the court at any time

- ✓ The replacement player may replace and be replaced by either libero.
- ✓ The acting libero can only be replaced by the player whom he replaced (for that position) or
- ✓ By the second libero.

The libero may be designated as a captain.

If one libero player cannot continue to play due to injury or illness the team will play the remainder of the current set with one libero.

- ✓ The coach may designate 2 libero players in subsequent sets

If the remaining libero player cannot continue to play due to injury or illness in the current set, the libero player may be replaced (follow NCAA rules for libero replacement).

- ✓ The coach may designate 2 libero players in subsequent sets

If the acting libero is disqualified due to unsportsmanlike behavior the team will continue the set without a libero player.

- ✓ The second libero may be used in the subsequent sets.

Teams will follow the NCAA rules when using one libero player.

Rule 18: Challenge Review System

The rule will not be used in high school play.

Rule 19: Officials and Their Duties

Officials should arrive 30 minutes before the start of the match for regular season play and 40 minutes before match for post-season play. Officials should arrive and leave the playing site together. Check section policy.

- ✓ Discuss exit strategy for when the match is completed.
- ✓ Locate the home coach and the site supervisor
- ✓ Introduce yourself to the score table crew and lines judges and instruct them accordingly, using concrete examples of various set situations.
- ✓ Conduct the team representative meeting / coin toss
- ✓ Both officials meet with the visiting and home coaches
- ✓ Relay pertinent information from the representatives' meeting.
- ✓ Relay pertinent information to the scorer and assistant scorer
- ✓ Monitor warm-up activities court side near the score table.
- ✓ Monitor player safety and ensure proper protocol is being followed during the warm-up period.
- ✓ Discuss ball handling parameters, sanction requests and any other potential match situations.
- ✓ Identify the setters and primary passers for the teams involved and discuss with partner potential violations in rotation order (overlaps).
- ✓ The second referee will conduct the deciding game coin toss. If a team selects the other side of the court, the second referee communicated this to the first referee. The first referee will whistle and give the change of courts signal. The three – minute clock starts with the first referee's whistle.
- ✓ If the teams select the current side, the first referee will whistle and signal teams to the benches. The three – minute clock starts with the first referee's whistle.
- ✓ The first referee will whistle and give the change of court signal for all non – deciding sets played in a match.
- ✓ When the first referee assesses a sanction, it must be accompanied by a whistle.

Once the match officials are courtside, only approved NYSCVOA apparel is acceptable.

The match officials do not adjust equipment. Notify the host coach or site supervisor for any necessary modifications to the playing equipment/area.

The first referee (R1) is responsible for the tempo of the match and has final authority over all decisions including those not specifically addressed in the rules. The R1 will not ask the second referee (R2) to act as a lines judge during the match. The net and centerline are the most important duties and attention to these and the other listed responsibilities is paramount.

The second referee (R2) will use the lineup sheets submitted by the teams to verify the players' numbers are correctly recorded on the score sheet. The R2 will communicate with the scorer and verify players' positions on the court prior to each set. A libero replacement cannot be made until the starting players are verified.

- ✓ The R2 will read the numbers of the players on the court to the scorer while standing near the score table or
- ✓ The scorer will read the numbers of the players on the scoresheet to the R2 while standing near the score table.

The lineup sheets, once submitted and recorded, are to remain at the score table for the duration of each set.

The lineup sheet must be signed / initialed by the coach for the first set of the match. It is not required for sets two through five.

Once play has begun, the score sheet must be used for all lineup check requests by coaches or captains. A lineup check is a courtesy and is not considered a legal game interruption. However, careful review of the players' positions in reference to the score sheet is paramount. When a lineup check is requested, take the time to get the players in correct service order on the court. The scorer and the R2 will work in conjunction whenever a lineup check is requested.

When a fault is whistled by the second referee (R2):

- ✓ Whistle the fault, **move to the fault side of the net**, indicate the nature of the fault and the player's number (if necessary) to the first referee.
- ✓ The first referee indicates the result of the play (point or replay) and then repeats the player's number to the bench (when applicable). The player's number is displayed with elbows at chin height and the first referee is square to the court.
- ✓ Numbers one through five and number ten are displayed using the hand on the side of the fault. Numbers requiring two hands are displayed square to the court, elbows are at chin height.
- ✓ The second referee waits to mimic the result of the play signal made by the first referee (replay or point).

Center line faults do not require a player number unless the player's number at fault is requested by the coach.

When the first referee whistles to stop play, it is not necessary for the second referee to move to the fault side of the net although in some situations, moving to the fault side of the net enhances communication to the first referee. At the end of a rally, it is required to be fully visible to the first referee and have the body square to the court.

If headsets are not being used for the match, the following is the R2's procedure for letting the R1 know a pause is necessary.

- ✓ Whistle twice, with palm facing the R1, once eye contact is made, drop hand, take care of the issue (score, event management, etc...), once resolved, scan benches and move to starting position and give the court back to the R1.

The second referee will use the release of court signal (slide 24) to begin the set and after any game interruptions (timeout, substitution). It may also be used after a long delay due to a score issue or for other prolonged delays.

- ✓ The release of court signal is the outside net hand perpendicular to the floor, raised shoulder height with the thumb and fingers together.
- ✓ The release of court signal is **not** to be used after every rally.

The first referee will whistle the warning whistles (for timeout or interval between sets) for the second referee when the second referee is occupied and unable to do so.

The head coach will be notified when the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th team substitutions are taken.

- ✓ The second referee will indicate the number of team substitutions taken to the coach. Do not use signal 15 (substitution) when relaying this information to the coach.
- ✓ Do not chase the coach to relay team substitution information as it delays resumption of the match.
- ✓ The second referee will indicate when the 18th team substitution has been used to the first referee. It is not necessary to use NCAA signal 15 (substitution) when relaying this information to the first referee.
- ✓ After scanning the benches and getting in base position for the next rally, with body squared to court and whistle in mouth, the second referee will release the court to the first referee by using the release of court signal.

The head coach will be notified when the second team timeout has been taken.

- ✓ The second referee will notify the coach when the second timeout has been issued for the set. Do not use signal 14 (timeout) when relaying this information.

The second referee will use NCAA signal 13a (end of set or match) and mimic the first referee to communicate the end of a set or match when the final point has been scored by the winning team.

To indicate the playing captain the officials will use either, a hand shaped to look like a 'C' or an arm across the chest and then indicate the player with an open hand.

The second referee will **not** indicate number of sets won to the first referee.

The Assistant Scorer (Libero Tracker) will use the NYSCVOA Libero Tracking Sheet for monitoring all substitutions and libero replacements. The tracker will assist the scorer as necessary. If a team does not use a libero player, the Assistant Scorer must keep track of team substitutions on the Libero Tracking Sheet.

The Scorer or Libero Tracker will verbally verify to the second referee the status (on or off the court) of each team's libero during a timeout.

The visiting team may provide a scorer and assistant scorer. They will be allowed to sit at the score table. The home team's score book will be the official match record unless the visiting scorer is more experienced.

The second referee will work in conjunction with score table personnel.

It is not necessary to hold substitutions until the scorer has completely recorded the players' numbers. The player(s) can be authorized for entry while the scorer records the substitution. Do not release the court until the scorer is ready and the substitutions have been recorded.

The scorebook should be checked during timeouts to ensure all information is recorded correctly.

Referees can make corrections to the scoresheet/score when the first or second referee is able to reconstruct the events that took place.

A protest must be requested by a coach or captain if the first and second referee is to use any other match information from statisticians, visiting score book, coaches, etc., (NCAA Rule 17.2.2.6) in regards to correcting any errors to the official (home) scoresheet/score.

This manual does not take the place of the NCAA rules book. Rules that are not modified by the committees of NYSPHSAA are to be enforced according to the current rules guide and interpretations given at the annual NYSCVOA Rules Interpretation meeting.

This document was developed to act as a quick reference guide to the *New York State Rule Modifications* that have been approved by NYSPHSAA. To promote consistency across the state, all NYSCVOA officials should know the rules and procedures contained herein and adhere to them during all NYSPHSAA interscholastic volleyball competitions.

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9/2011
Revised 8/2012; 8/14/12; 8/8/13; 8/19/2014; 7/22/2015
Revised 8/2016; 8/2017; 8/2018; 7/2019; 10/2020; 8/2021
Revised 7/2022; 8/2022; 6/2023; 7/2024