

SCVOA Protocols and Procedures

These are the protocols and procedures to be used in chronological order from the time the officials arrive at the match site. Anything not mentioned in this document shall be conducted as described within the NFHS Rules Book or Case Book unless modified by the SCVOA Instructional Chair.

Pregame:

- If there is more than one (1) official scheduled to work a varsity match then BOTH officials must be courtside **prior to the end of timed warm-ups**. This particularly applies to the frosh/JV split prior to a varsity match. **The 20 minute warm-up time may be started at the request of the home team head coach or athletic director, even if both assigned officials are not courtside.**
- In the event that an official is going to be later than the official varsity match start time. That official must make every attempt to notify their partner, playing site and assignor immediately. That match shall not be started prior to the arrival of BOTH assigned officials. **The home team head coach or athletic director may decide to allow the single official to begin the varsity match, prior to the arrival of the missing official. If this occurs, the official that begins the match as the first referee will remain the first referee for the duration of the entire match.**
- If an official is not able to attend their assigned match they are required to notify their partner, the match site and their assignor immediately. ***Each unit of SCVOA may modify who must be contacted per their own unit structure and needs.***
- The coach that attends the coaches' and captains' meeting (prematch coin toss) is designated as the head coach and is the only coach permitted to stand during the match. There shall be no change in this designation after the conclusion of the coin toss. If a team refuses to honor this designation, the official(s) must report this to the SCVOA Instructional Chair within one (1) business day.
- There must be an assistant scorekeeper/libero tracker available for every match, regardless of level. It is sole responsibility of the home school to provide the scorekeeper and assistant scorekeeper for each match. The assigning of lines people shall be conducted by following each league's guidelines. If either coach is unaware of any established guidelines then both schools shall provide a line judge for the match. At their discretion, the visiting team may volunteer to provide an official scorekeeper and/or libero tracker for the match. The only exception to this is when neither team utilizes a libero during the **entire** match.
- The 20 minute warm-up time **includes** the final 3 minute "dead time" prior to the beginning of the match. This is important because the rosters are due from each team 10 minutes prior to the end of the timed prematch warm-up and the starting lineups are due 2 minutes prior to the end of the timed prematch warm-up.
- At no time is a player allowed to remove any piece of clothing that would expose any part of their body normally covered by their playing uniform while ***within the visual confines of the playing area***, regardless of the intent of this action, including changing into or out of their uniform. If this action occurs that player(s) shall be automatically sanctioned with a yellow card. If more than one team member is observed changing into or out of their uniform within the visual confines of the playing area, each team member so observed is sanctioned with a yellow card. If there are three (3) or more team members observed, then the coach also receives the yellow card and will then lose the privilege to stand during play.

SCVOA Protocols and Procedures

- CIF-SS and the SCVOA have decided to allow any color of net sleeve.
- CIF-SS and the SCVOA have determined that cellular telephones are allowed as an exception to the electronics prohibition under Rule 12.2.8g.
- Coaches must be wearing appropriate athletic footwear when **actively warming** up with their teams. Sandals, heels, bare feet, etc., are not appropriate footwear when actively warming up their teams. Active warm-up does not include tossing a ball but does include any hitting, serving or passing drills in which the coach is performing these actions. Err to the side of safety, not to the comfort level or cultural level of the coaches/schools/geographic area in which the match is taking place.
- Players may have unadorned bobby pins, flat metal clips and flat barrettes as long as none of these items are longer than 2 inches in length. **At no time are feathers allowed in a player's hair, regardless of how they are attached.**
- When checking the lineup of each team, the R2 will begin by standing on one team's sideline. Once that team's lineup has been verified the R2 will indicate that a libero replacement, if any, may now take place. The R2 will repeat this procedure with the other team. At no time should the R2 enter the court to verify a team's lineup. The game ball shall remain at the score table until both lineups have been verified and any libero replacements or substitutions have been completed.
- It is absolutely vital that all padding and safety concerns are addressed **prior to warm-ups!** Our liability begins from the time we arrive *within the visual confines of the playing area*. If a playing area cannot be made legal then that match **MUST NOT** be held. This must be reported to your unit assignor, unit president, area liaison and the CIF-SS Representative.

During play:

- The proper signal for a ball crossing the center line is signal 2 (line violation).
- Signals 20 (illegal substitution) and 22 (unnecessary delay) from the rule book are **not** to be utilized.
- Signal 19 (substitution) may be performed with either open hands or with closed fists.
- Signal 21a/21b (Time-out) may be performed either below or above the eyes (do not restrict line of sight).
- Signal 1 (illegal alignment/improper server/**inaccurate lineup/late roster**) may be performed by making a circular motion with the entire hand or with the index finger.
- In the case of a delay of game assessment the following procedure shall be followed:
 - a. Blow your whistle.
 - b. Stop any action or match interruptions from occurring.
 - c. Use signal 21a (time-out) indicating the team receiving the delay of game sanction.
 - d. Notify the coach and captain that their team is being assessed a delay of game sanction and the reason for that sanction.
 - e. If that team does not have a time-out remaining then indicate a point/loss of rally to the other team.

SCVOA Protocols and Procedures

- When calling a net fault or a center line violation against a player the following procedure shall be followed:
 - a. Blow your whistle.
 - b. Signal the fault being called.
 - c. Signal the uniform number of the player committing the fault.
 - d. Signal the point for the opposing team (initiated by the R1 in a 2-person crew).
 - Please note that this procedure must be followed EVERY TIME a player commits a center line violation or a net fault.

This procedure is performed by **BOTH** the R1 and the R2 (in a 2-person crew) and may be repeated informally to the head coach if that information is requested by turning and facing the head coach and either showing the number on your hands and/or verbally communicating the number. This is not a time for any coach to argue the call and should not result in a conversation/delay.

- When the R2 is requesting a card from the R1 they should step to the sideline of the court on the side of the team or individual to be sanctioned and verbally request the specific level of sanction, as well as the coach, player or team member to receive this sanction. At no time should the R2 show a card to either the R1 or to any individual.
- Sanctions are allowed to be given from the time when the officials' jurisdiction begins until the officials leave the visual confines of the playing area at the conclusion of the match. If the match has ended the individual may only be sanctioned with a disqualification. This does not require the official to input any further information on the match score sheet. Instead the proper paperwork must be completed by that official and sent to the area liaison, the unit president, the unit instructor and the unit assignor immediately (no later than 8:00 AM of the next business day).

If any behavior occurs outside the visual confines of the playing area, it is the responsibility of the officials to contact the appropriate law enforcement agency, at their discretion.

- If a head coach receives a yellow or red card during the match, they lose the right to stand, except as designated under Rule 12.2.6 A-C and Rule 12.2.5. If the head coach receives a yellow/red disqualification and there is **any authorized school personnel**, this newly designated head coach must remain seated, except as allowed by rule. Also note if any team member (while not a player) receives any card, the head coach must remain seated as mentioned above. ***This must be vigorously enforced.***
- Officials need to enforce the rule that **ONLY** head coaches are allowed to stand during play. Officials must also understand and enforce the circumstances as to when an assistant coach may stand and what type of information an assistant coach may legally request from the R2. At no time should an assistant coach be allowed to shout across the court or engage with the other members of the officiating crew without receiving a verbal warning or a card.
- The officials need to pay attention to players standing in the warm-up zone. This is allowed for only a short time and should not be allowed to continue if the player is not actively warming up or if the player is not going to enter the game within a reasonable amount of time (a couple of minutes, not to exceed 3 rotations).
- Use of a lineup card by the R1 or R2 is no longer appropriate and will **NOT** be used.

SCVOA Protocols and Procedures

- The use of preventative officiating is mandatory for all officials. Consult Page 50-51 of the casebook.
- “Dig Pink”: If a school is hosting a “Dig Pink” or Cancer Awareness event the following policies are in force.:
 - a. Officials are allowed to wear pink shirts but this is the only exception to the uniform code.
 - b. The ball must have the NFHS Stamp but may be all pink.
 - c. The libero uniform must remain legally contrasting.
- CIF has officially prescribed the use of the “collegiate” style of scorekeeping, individual schools are not required to use the “collegiate” scorekeeping sheets.
- The official scorekeeping method to be instructed and used by its members will be a variation of the “collegiate” style taught at the NCAA/PAVO level.
- The SCVOA variations from the NCAA/PAVO scorekeeping method will be:
 1. Use of the "T" and "Tx" will be included in the detail area used to record individual points, substitutions and side-outs.
 2. When a team is using a “ghost position,” that loss of rally shall be noted as a circled and boxed R in that serving position.
 3. Sanctions will be recorded in the comments section. There will not be a sanctions area provided on the modified score sheets. A comments section will be provided for each team.
 4. Wrong servers will not be recorded in the comments.
 5. The scorer will sign the score sheets provided next to his/her name. No additional space will be provided for the scorer’s signature.
 6. Line judge information, if recorded, will be in the comments section of the score sheets.
 7. Notification to the R2 by the scorer, when a team’s substitution count reaches 15.

Ball Handling Rule vs. Philosophy

In the case book beginning on page 76 it states that:

“A legal hit is contact with the ball by a player’s body which does not allow the ball to visibly come to rest or have prolonged contact with a player. The only valid criterion for judging illegal hit is that of vision.” If you did not see it, it did not happen. Referees should look ahead of the ball and watch the ball contacted by the hands to ensure accurate ball-handling decisions. Prolonged contact is a call that NFHS rules require to be enforced. Any ball that comes to rest on a player should be whistled a violation. A ball rolling up the arms or a player over-running a pass may result in prolonged contact. Officials should pay special attention to the setters during warm-ups in an effort to become familiar with the styles of setting to be displayed during the match. Spin, sound, speed, body position or technique(s) are not criteria to determine illegal handling of the ball. Officials should strive to be consistent when making ball handling calls.

The current philosophy making its way throughout the sport of volleyball is one of “lessening of severity” of an official’s ball handling decisions. This philosophical change has been going on for a few years now and is reflected in the current ball handling directives for FIVB, USAV and NCAA/PAVO. While these other directives allow for a multiple contact to not be called and provides criteria and situations for these “no calls”, the NFHS has made it simple. Don’t make ball handling calls if you don’t see it. It has been decided

SCVOA Protocols and Procedures

to ask each official to lessen the severity of their calls as well. Obviously, the gross and egregious, non-simultaneous multiple contacts need to be whistled immediately. But if an official is unsure if they saw a multiple contact then they should err to the side of allowing play to continue. This DOESN'T mean that there should be an artificial increase in prolonged or "lift" calls made during a match. The philosophy of prolonged contact is that it is measured by time and not distance.

This philosophy is only intended for varsity matches. It is the current intent of the SCVOA and CIF-SS that the lower levels (junior varsity and freshman) be designated as "developmental" levels. This designation implies even wider latitude of ball handling techniques.

It seems that some officials are not willing to acknowledge this change in the game. While it is completely understandable to resist change, it is no longer acceptable to refuse to adapt to any of the changes being introduced to the sport. Officials need to stop making automatic calls. Using spin, technique or crowd/coach/player reactions to determine legality is entirely inappropriate. It is also extremely important to maintain an even, consistent level of ball handling throughout a match. If you wouldn't call it at the first point of the first set then you should not call it at match point of the deciding set.

The philosophies that are being introduced are meant to increase the length of rallies and to allow the spectators to view these increasingly athletic players to fully display their abilities. The sport of volleyball is becoming more and more viewer friendly and it is generally agreed, even at the highest levels, that viewers do not pay to see or hear the officials remaining as involved in the course of the game as they have been in the past.

Libero Uniform Enforcement

Enforcement of the legality or illegality of the libero uniform remains a topic of conversation throughout the country. The rule book states, "The libero must wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team."

This does not mean that only the officials must be able to clearly and immediately be able to distinguish who the libero is during play but there is an implied understanding that this must apply to the vast majority of the players, coaches, officials and spectators in attendance. The libero must be clearly and immediately distinguishable, not only standing around during a dead ball but also in the blur of play, as well as during libero replacements. For an R1 to say, "I can see it and I don't care about the remainder of the individuals involved in the match," is to lose the spirit of the rule, as well as the practical reasoning for the letter of the rule.

Both the R1 and R2 need to be able to immediately identify the libero to be able to ascertain their location and the nature of their contact with the ball. An illegal libero uniform makes this task tedious or impossible and can cause that official to lose track of the progress of play by having to focus on finding the libero. This can cause the R2 to be unable to assist with information for the R1 during play and could cause the R2 to be unable to accurately manage the libero replacements. The R1 and R2 must agree on the legality of the libero uniform. If the two officials do not agree on the legality of the libero uniform, the libero uniform will be declared illegal.

The assistant scorekeeper (libero tracker) is absolutely reliant on this visual information when performing their duties. As we all know, it is hard enough keeping our junior officiating crew focused without causing

SCVOA Protocols and Procedures

them further strain of having to “search” for the libero. This can also be applied to some of our well intentioned but inexperienced adult officiating crew.

The opposing team deserves to be able to quickly determine the location of the libero in several respects, particularly in serve receive. This can also affect their offensive tactics and execution.

It should be understood with the rapid adoption of new rules, mechanics, protocols, and philosophies within the sport of volleyball, there is a requirement for all officials to quickly adapt to the new environment, regardless of their personal feelings as to the “direction” the sport is taking. An official’s failure to adapt can and should negatively impact that official’s level of certification and the quality and quantity of matches assigned.

Ghost Position Interpretations

If a team must employ the use of a “ghost position” due to an injury or illness the following interpretations should be used:

- Proper alignment must be maintained by the team utilizing the “ghost position.” When the “ghost” rotates to the front row, that team will have only two legal front-row players.
- The “ghost position” may not be used in determining an overlap.
 - Example: The “ghost position” is in the right front position. The right back may come all the way to the net and there would NOT be any overlap. Additionally, the middle front may come all the way to the right sideline and there would NOT be any overlap.
- The “ghost position” may not be used to start a match. The team must have six (6) actual players physically on the court when a match begins or the team must forfeit the match, as per Rule 6.2.1.
- A loss of rally/point is recorded each time a “ghost position” rotates to the back right position. This is recorded on the score sheet as a circled and boxed R.
- If more than one (1) “ghost position” is utilized, all of the above interpretations are to be followed for each of the “ghost positions.”

If you have any further questions please contact your unit instructor and/or Louis Ventura, CIF-SS Representative/SCVOA Instructional Chair at cifssrep@yahoo.com.

Additional resources are available at socalvoa.org