

GET READY, GET SET, GO

Use These Five 'Ups' to Tune-up for the Season



Janice McCreary, Frankfort, Ill., took the time in the preseason to take care of all the off-court requirements so she can be totally focused on the match as she takes the court to start the season.

By Ellen Townsend

Planning and preparation are vital as we head into the fall volleyball season. Hopefully, you have a checklist of things to accomplish before taking the court allowing for a seamless transition from the offseason into the competition season. If not, then use this checklist. It is certainly not all inclusive but is a starting point — add items, as necessary.

Sign Up

Most officials are members of multiple organizations. Be professional and take care of registrations required by the organizations for which you work.

Register with appropriate organizations (NCAA, PAVO, NAIA, state or local association, board) to ensure eligibility, testing modules and access to communications and mentoring programs.

Register for appropriate rules clinics (NCAA, PAVO, state or local association or board). Clinics generally require in-person attendance, but many organizations this year are delivering these online.

Submit all necessary paperwork/contracts to appropriate organizations.

Study Up

Having a good rules knowledge base keeps us calm and confident under pressure during a match. Whatever sources or methods used to review the rules are up to you, but try to consider a variety of educational content as the season approaches.

Read and study the most current rulebook, official's manual, casebook situations and rule interpretations. Use the *NFHS Simplified & Illustrated* publication as a visual aid to the NFHS rules language. Be sure to note all rule, technique or protocol changes for the coming year.

Access available online training tools proffered through PAVO/ NCAA and the NFHS. Two tools offered by PAVO are iRef and Ref School. The iRef provides an extensive library of modules for review, targeted at specific experience and certification levels. Another tool is Ref School which allows you to design quizzes based on certain rules or take practice tests providing instant feedback. Use this as a study guide to refresh your rules knowledge as you prepare to take the required exam.

Access the NFHS Learning Center (NFHSlern.com). The NFHS offers courses on alignment, ballhandling, concussion management and a recently added course on COVID-19 for coaches, athletic administrators and officials.

Search for volleyball videos on the internet. Watch them for fun or imagine you are one of the referees and "make the call!"

Review the Summary Comparison chart provided by PAVO which shows the rule differences between NCAA, USA and NFHS volleyball. For those officials working in two or three rules codes, this tool provides clarity when coming off club volleyball or if transitioning between college and high school during the week.

Check your state association, local association/board or national organization's website for additional educational materials. These could be new directives, an updated line judge manual, current best practices (e.g. NCAA/PAVO LJ Best Practices), other publications or video content. Have the most current digital or hard copy available for quick access.

Review last year's correspondence from conference coordinators, assigners, state rule interpreters and various organization leadership. Many of these folks include PowerPoints, videos, surveys and other correspondence that are targeted to specific plays, protocols or techniques involving players and officials.

Get in front of a mirror and practice your signals. Include player numbers and informal signals.

Step It Up

Gauging last season's performance before getting back on the court sets the stage for future success. To effectively move forward, look back at your prior work performances and critique yourself.

Evaluate any recorded matches. Sit down with a mentor or observer — someone you trust to give an honest assessment of your work — and follow up with a self-analysis. Check your journal notes from last season's debriefings. Focus on your performance in both referee positions. Include an appraisal as a line judge if you worked that position.

To better focus on your performance, consider going to an officiating camp offering video and where feedback is provided by experienced, high-level officials. Most camps are done in the spring, so plan ahead.

Set three or four realistic goals for the season. Think of what you want to achieve. What did your mentor offer? Your self-analysis? Be as specific as possible and write these goals down.

Checkup

Schedule an annual preseason physical. Knowing you are physically able to work means you can concentrate on most officiating demands. This is one of the most important steps referees can take before stepping on the court. Possessing a level of physical fitness necessary for officiating volleyball is paramount. Having the proper equipment to perform the job is essential.

Make an appointment to have your eyes checked. Having sharp vision is critical when judging contacts, touches or determining whether a ball has landed in or out.

Check your uniform and shoes for wear and tear and, if necessary, order shirts and pants from an approved vendor. PAVO has a list of vendors on its website. For high school uniforms check with your state association.

Make an appointment to have your vehicle serviced. Check the tires, brakes, heater and air conditioning to ensure reliability and comfort. Always be on time for your match.

DID YOU KNOW?

The NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel (PROP) expressed support for a waiver of rules 9.2.4 and 9.2.5 for the 2020 fall season. Due to the challenges resulted from COVID-19, the PROP recognized the waiver of these rules would help to reduce germ spread. The 2020 waiver allows teams to stay at the same bench for the entire match as opposed to switching sides between each set and switching sides once a team reaches eight points in the deciding set.



BY THE NUMBERS

3

The number of officials inducted into the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. The three officials are Glen Davies, Alton Fish and John Koch. Koch, who was inducted in 1994, is the last official to be inducted. There are a total of 146 inductees into the hall of fame, which is located in Holyoke, Mass.



SIDELINE

Pro League Launching

In partnership with USA Volleyball, Athletes Unlimited announced it was launching the first pro indoor women's league in the U.S. in February 2021. The league will be six weeks of game play all in one city. On the court, the top four players each week become new captains and draft their teams from scratch for the following week's games. Athletes score points as individuals and as a team to win MVP titles and cash bonuses. The league will feature Olympic medalists and world champions.



TEST YOURSELF

In each of the following, you are given a situation and possible answer(s). You are to decide which answer(s) are correct for NFHS, NCAA or USAV rules, which might vary. **Solutions: p. 81.**

1. Which of the following is permitted if a rally is stopped and replayed due to an injury?
 - a. A legal libero replacement to replace an injured back-row player.
 - b. A timeout request by the injured player's team after the initial 30-second evaluation period.
 - c. A substitution request to replace the injured player.
 - d. All the above are legal.

2. After a rally during the third set, the second referee whistles to acknowledge a substitution request, A12 for A3. The scorer informs the second referee that A12 was replaced in the first set using an exceptional substitution. What is the correct action?
 - a. Allow the substitution since the exceptional substitution occurred in a different set in the match.
 - b. Deny the substitution since A12 had been replaced by exceptional substitution earlier in the match and assess team A with a delay sanction (unnecessary delay — NFHS).
 - c. Deny the substitution and award a point and the service to team B.

3. A6 attempts to set the ball, which is entirely on team A's side of the net. B8 reaches beyond the net to block and inadvertently touches A6's hands. A6 then makes a double contact on the ball and the first referee blows the whistle. What is the correct decision for the first referee?
 - a. Double contact by A6; team B wins the rally.
 - b. Double fault (double contact by A6, interference by B8); the rally is replayed.
 - c. Interference (reaching beyond the net) by B8; team A wins the rally.

Check your equipment bag. Include extra whistles and lanyards, a functioning pump and ball pressure gauge, a net chain, a flipping coin, conference or other required patches, batteries for electronic devices and a set of red and yellow cards. To round out a complete bag, include bottles of hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, gum or mints, lotion and a few lint rollers. Be sure to restock after each match or as necessary.

Check your flags for wear and tear and clean the handles. Replace if needed.

Restock your binder's documents. Many officials keep copies of scoresheets, libero tracking sheets, lineup sheets and other forms in a binder should the host school run out or not have access to these items. And toss in a few colored pens.

New this year, add a few pairs of gloves and a couple facial coverings/masks. The entity you work for may dictate the type of face covering, if required. Be sure to safely protect these items by keeping them sealed in a bag when not in use. Clean, sanitize and replace as needed.

Also new this year, add a hand-held electronic whistle, a squeeze whistle or a whistle-mask and extra batteries. Again, the entity employing your services may dictate the type of whistle.

Clean Up

Managing your contact information shows you are ready to work and demonstrates professionalism.

Update your profile information to assist your assigner and others needing your contact information. This includes email, phone numbers and addresses. Make sure your date of birth and social security number are accurate for purposes of any mandated background checks. If you have profiles in different assigning databases, update your information in all of them.

Update your calendar on whatever site your organization or conference uses. Get your blocks in and any associated notes. Your assigner needs your most up-to-date availability so stay on top of any doctor's appointments and other dates where you cannot work, such as anniversaries or birthdays.

Make a list of the indoor and outdoor jobs you want to get done before the season starts. Like binge watching *Game of Thrones*, for the second time. Have some fun before the season gets under way. *Ellen Townsend, Reno, Nev., is a PAVO State Referee, a 44-year Nevada High School Association certified referee, clinician and the state's rules interpreter. She also serves as the commissioner and assigner of officials for Northern Nevada.* □

Those Informal Signals

By Jason Palmer

When the NFHS changed the informal signal last season to indicate a player had legally contacted the ball, it took a while for many officials to catch on to the new informal signals. The elimination of the safe signal, and addition of two new signals that show either the ball was below the height of the net when contacted, or the player was behind the attack line when contact was made, has been around a few seasons for college and USAV officials. The new signals help inform the players, coaches and

spectators. But knowing when and how to use them takes a bit of practice.

These signals (see PlayPics on pg. 36) are only to be used when necessary to discern whether the play is legal. For example, a back-row player who is a foot behind the attack line when contact is made is not the time to use the signal indicating a legal back-row attack. But say the player contacting the ball is jumping higher than the top of the net, her takeoff foot is within an inch of the attack line and a completed attack takes place. In this instance, the first referee may want to use the informal



DUCK & COVER

Patrick Bradley, Fontana, Calif., ducks to avoid getting hit by the ball and allow the player to keep the ball in play. As an R1, when the ball comes near you on the stand, and especially if a player has a chance to play the ball, it is important to try to avoid the ball to allow the player to make a play. By moving just a little bit or crouching down, you can provide more space and avoid being hit by the ball, keeping it in play. It is also important to keep an eye on the action to watch for any ball-handling issues or to see if the ball hits out of play before or after the player contacts it. It is also important to brace for impact in case a player makes contact with you or the stand.

signal indicating a legal play.

In this case, the first referee should bend his or her arm on the attacker's side of the net at the elbow. Using a sweeping motion, move the forearm at the waist level toward the attack line, with the palm facing the endline at the completion of the motion (as in PlayPic A, next page).

This same signal should be used on a play where the libero uses an overhand finger pass while near the attack line and the next contact of the ball is a completed attack while the ball was completely above the height of the net. This is a play where often a coach will look to the first referee to see if the play was legal because it is such a close call, with many factors that need to be considered.

What if you have a tall back-row player on a rally who is standing flat on the court but her foot touches the attack line as the ball is contacted and a completed attack occurs?

In this case the first referee must judge if the contact occurred while the ball was completely above the height of the net at the moment of contact. If a portion of the ball was below the height of the net, the first referee can indicate this is a legal play by bending his or her arm on the attacker's side of the net at the elbow, parallel to the floor at the waist level, with the palm of the hand facing down. Push the palm toward the floor in a single motion (as in PlayPic B, next page).

Additionally, we often see in today's game where a libero will jump for an attack after a ball has been set to them. This play has even more factors to analyze. Since the libero can never complete an attack while the ball is completely above the height of the net, regardless of where the attack may come from on the court, the first referee must be ready to call either an illegal

back-row attack or indicate the play was legal if a portion of the ball was below the height of the net. It becomes hard to judge the height of the ball the further behind the attack line the libero is when the contact of the ball is made. Do your best and be consistent with this call.

If the ball goes on a straight plane after being contacted or there is a definite downward motion, more than likely the ball was completely above the height of the net and an illegal back-row attack should be whistled against the offending team. But one must also not be deceived as many players will become aware of a potential illegal back-row attack while they are in the air. Their foot may have touched the attack line during takeoff and their teammates or coaches on the bench will yell, "Stay down!" The player who was about to go up for a monster spike will then change his or her mind in

DALE GARDNER

CASEPLAYS

Assistant Coaches Standing During Play

Play: During play, both team B assistant coaches stand to instruct players but remain at least 1.75 meters from the court.

Ruling: NFHS allows only the head coach to stand during play; however, if a red card is issued for unsporting conduct to the head coach, assistant coach(es) or team bench, the head coach shall remain seated during play for the remainder of the match (12-2-5, 12-2-6). In NCAA, the second referee should ignore those actions provided the coaches do not delay or disrupt the match (5.2.4.1). In USAV, the rules permit the head coach and only one assistant coach to stand at any time. Further similar actions may result in a delay sanction being assessed to team B, or a misconduct sanction may be assessed if the assistant coaches' actions are deemed disruptive (5.2.3.4, 5.3.1).

Re-serve

Play: A1 tosses the ball for service but allows the ball to fall to the floor untouched. The first referee authorizes the serve again. Team A wins that point. A1 prepares to serve again and tosses the ball and allows it to hit the floor again untouched. **Ruling:** In NFHS, each player is allowed one re-serve during a team's term of service. For a service tossing error, the ball may be caught or allowed to drop to the floor. The ball must be contacted within five seconds after the first referee authorizes the re-serve. A subsequent tossing error by the same server during the same term of service will result in loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent (8-1-1, 8-1-5, 8-1-6). In NCAA, re-serves are not permitted. The server has eight seconds to contact the ball after authorization from service (13.1.3). In USAV, re-serves are allowed for 14-and-under age groups, provided the ball is not caught by the server; it must fall to the floor untouched. A re-serve is permitted for each service and servers are allowed five seconds to contact the ball after the first referee whistles for service. For all other age groups, the server must contact the ball within eight seconds of the first referee's whistle for service and no re-serves are permitted (12.4.4).



Informal signals to indicate a back-row player is behind the attack line (A) or contact with a ball is below the height of the net (B) should be used sparingly by the R1.

midair and let the ball come down below the height of the net before completing the attack. In this case, the informal signal for ball below the height of the net should be given and play allowed to continue.

Second referees can aid on many of these plays. How they communicate with their partner if a play was legal or not should be discussed during the pregame conference between the officiating crew. Many second referees will point at the attack line to indicate a potential fault, if they can clearly see a back-row player's foot touch the attack line while going up to attack a ball. This is done when the play may be out of the view of the first referee.

However, instances where the ball might be above the height of the net should not be given by the second referee, unless it is clearly a blatant violation, which generally occurs if the first referee forgets who is a back-row player.

These informal signals should be used sparingly. Plays where there is no doubt should not be indicated. Less experienced officials may start out using these informal signals more than they need to. That is OK. But as officials progress in their careers, the circumstances for these informal signals to be used should become fewer and fewer.

Jason Palmer is an associate editor at Referee and an IHSA volleyball referee. □

You Got to Keep 'Em Separated

By Luke Modrovsky

Volleyball officials are responsible for carrying a set of yellow and red cards, but not every card has the same meaning.

Just like ketchup and mustard don't mix well on a hot dog, it's important for referees to understand these two distinct categories — sanction cards for misconduct and

sanction cards for delay — are just that, separate.

Unsporting conduct. For misconduct, NFHS, NCAA and USAV rules all agree on a tiered carding system. However, they slightly differ in approach. USAV offers a Stage 1 official warning under 21.1 where a verbal warning can be issued through the game captain for minor misconduct. The

first referee could also choose to issue a Stage 2 yellow card. USAV rules do not technically recognize the yellow card as a formal sanction and only one yellow card can be given to a team. NFHS and NCAA rules both use the yellow card as the warning.

Play 1: A5 is frustrated with herself after misplaying a ball. Frustrated, she slaps the floor in anger. **Ruling 1:** If the first referee deems this to be minor misconduct, USAV rules allow for a Stage 1 or Stage 2 warning (USAV 21.1). In NFHS and NCAA, the first referee has the authority to issue a yellow card, if the first referee deems it is warranted, but no official provisions exist for a warning without a card (NFHS 12-2 Pen.; NCAA 6.1.2).

In the play above, it's best for the official to gauge the temperature of the match before deciding which route to take.

What about the meaning of an unsporting red card? In other sports, a participant receiving a red card is no longer involved in the match, but what about in volleyball? NFHS, NCAA and USAV rules all agree that red and yellow cards held up at the same time (but in separate hands) indicates disqualification. So, the penalty (red card) sanction does not mean a participant or coach is removed from the match.

The penalty (red card) phase — in all three codes — includes a point and service to the offended team. This penalty is issued for the first serious offense (NFHS) or first rude conduct (NCAA). USAV rules also include a penalty area for expelled team members that is not used in NFHS or NCAA play.

In USAV, no penalty point is awarded for a disqualification or expulsion; however, in NFHS and NCAA, a point and service is awarded to the opponent.

Finally, all sanctions for unsporting conduct issues remain in effect throughout the entire match in NFHS (Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations – 9) and USAV (21.4.1) play. Only in NCAA is repeated misconduct not progressive from set to set. The first referee can certainly choose to issue a red card



It is important for first referees to keep sanction cards for misconduct and sanction cards for delay separate to not accidentally assess the wrong penalty. Rich Skalma, Van Nuys, Calif., assesses a disqualification for misconduct and knows this has no bearing on team sanctions for delay.

without issuing a yellow card, but stating to a captain, "Your player received an earlier yellow card (in set one), so this card (in set two) automatically upgrades to a red card," would be incorrect, according to NCAA rule 6.1.2. A disqualified player, however, would remain disqualified for the duration of the match.

Delay in play. Still addressing carding situations, it's an entirely different scenario when discussing delay situations. NFHS rules refer to these delays as "unnecessary delay" and both NCAA and USAV rules use the term "delay sanctions."

In essence, the terms are the same and penalties are carried out in the same manner as well. However, unnecessary delay/delay sanctions should not be mixed with unsporting conduct. As mentioned earlier, they are completely separate. One cannot emphasize that enough since it would be wrong to penalize a team who has not earned the penalty, by rule.

Play 2: A5 is issued a yellow card for unsporting conduct in the first set. Later in the same set, team A delays returning to the court. The first referee issues a red card to team A and awards team B a point and service. **Ruling 2:** Incorrect procedure. In all codes, since A5 was penalized for unsporting conduct, team A should instead receive a yellow card (as a first offense in the set) for unnecessary delay/delay sanction (NFHS 9-9-1, 12-2 Pen.; NCAA 6.1.2, 6.3; USAV 16.2, 21.3, 21.4).

In all codes, delay sanctions only pertain to the set they were issued and do not carry over from set to set. Each team operates with a clean slate regarding unnecessary delay/delay sanctions. Being particular, sanctions that occur after a set has concluded (during the three-minute interval between sets) are carried out prior to the next set beginning.

Unnecessary delay/delay sanctions are rather simple. In all codes, the yellow card indicates a warning and the red card indicates a penalty. The warning and penalty are the same as in unsporting conduct — the yellow card merely acting as an official warning and the red giving a point and service to the offended team. Repeated violations of the delay rule can be penalized with unsporting conduct. However, this is the exception rather than the norm.

In summary, the warning (yellow), penalty (red), disqualification applies to unsporting conduct and the warning (yellow) and penalty (red) applies to unnecessary delay/delay sanctions. However, upgrading a previous unsporting conduct warning to a delay penalty would be incorrect by rule. Don't blend the two together. *Luke Modrovsky is an assistant editor at Referee and a five-sport official.* □

CORRECTION

A caseplay in the 08/20 edition incorrectly identified a rule citation and had inconsistent wording regarding medical alert bracelets for NCAA. In NCAA play, a medical alert bracelet may be worn but it must be removed from chains and taped or sewn under the uniform (7.2.1).

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MISCELLANEOUS

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QUIZ ANSWERS

BASKETBALL

1 — All — d (NFHS 4-6-1, 4-6-2, 4-6-3, 9-11; NCAAM/W 9-15.2.a.1, 9-15.2.a.2, 9-15.2.a.3)
2 — NFHS — c (2-8-4); NCAAM/W — b (2-8-4)
3 — NFHS — c (3-3-6 Note 1, 5-11-8); NCAAM — b (3-6.3.d, 5-14.12.a, A.R. 58); NCAAW — b (3-6.3.b, 3-6.3.c, 5-11.8, A.R. 97)
4 — All — d (NFHS 4-23-5b, 4-40-5; NCAAM 4-17.5.b, 4-35.3.c; NCAAW 10-4.5.a, 10-4.5.b, 10-5.3.c)

BASEBALL

1 — All — a (NFHS 3-2-3, 8-4-2s; NCAA 3-3e Pen., 8-5f; pro 6.01a8)
2 — All — a (NFHS 6-1-1; NCAA 9-1a; pro 5.07a1)
3 — All — a (NFHS 8-3-3d; NCAA 6-1d; pro 5.06b3, 5.12b6)

FOOTBALL

1 — Both — d (NFHS 9-5-1 Pen.; NCAA 9-2-1a-1, 9-2-6a)
2 — Both — b (NFHS 8-3-8; NCAA 8-3-3, AR 8-3-3 l)
3 — Both — b (NFHS 8-5-1, 8-5-

2a; NCAA 8-5-1a)
4 — Both — a (NFHS 2-19-2, 7-3-2b; NCAA 2-13-1b, 7-1-6a)
5 — Both — b (NFHS 2-32-14, 9-4-6, 9.4.6A; NCAA 9-1-14, AR 9-1-14 I-III)

SOFTBALL

1 — USA Softball, NFHS, USSSA — b (USA Softball 7-6r Eff.; NFHS 7-4-4 Pen.; USSSA 7-12 Pen.); NCAA — d (11.20.2)
2 — All — c (USA Softball 8-8a; NCAA 12.17.2.1.5.2; NFHS 8-8-1; USSSA 8-18g)
3 — All — a (USA Softball 8-5b Eff., 8-5b-3 Eff., R/S 36; NCAA 9.5.3.1 Eff.; NFHS 8-4-3b Pen. B; USSSA 8-13 Eff. A)

SOCCER

1 — All — c (NFHS 1-5-3; NCAA 1.12.1 and 1.12.2; IFAB 1-9 defines the "technical area" in relation to a designated sitting area for team officials, substitutes and substituted players.)
2 — All — b (NFHS 2-2.3; NCAA

2.1.3; IFAB 2-1 specifies a range of acceptable pressures.)
3 — All — d (NFHS 4-2-1-g; NCAA 4.2.1 prohibits "anything that is dangerous ..."; IFAB 4-1 prohibits dangerous equipment and 4.4 allows protective equipment made of "soft, lightweight padded material ...")
4 — All — c (NFHS 14-1-3; NCAA 14.2.3; IFAB 14-1)
5 — All — a (NFHS 16-1-3, 16-1-4; NCAA 16.2.1; IFAB 16-1)

VOLLEYBALL

1 — All — d (NFHS 11-4-1; NCAA 11.3.5.1; USAV 17.1.1)
2 — NFHS, NCAA — a (NFHS 10-3-6 Note; NCAA 11.3.6.1.3); USAV — b (15.7, 15.9.1e, 16.1.3)
3 — All — c (NFHS 9-6-7d-1 Pen.; NCAA 15.2.3; USAV 11.1.1)

OCTOBER

FLASHBACK

40 YEARS AGO ...

1980

• A Minor League Baseball umpire in the International League expresses disappointment that his game between the

Richmond Braves and Syracuse Chiefs came up just short of setting a record for the most innings. Umpire Stan Babicz worked third base during the game in Syracuse, N.Y., and said, "All those innings and no record." The game went 22 innings and lasted five hours, 58 minutes, with Richmond emerging victorious. The record was 23 innings.



30 YEARS AGO ...

1990

• The Southwest Conference (SWC), which existed until 1996, excludes its basketball officials from working games involving their

alma maters, but defers on hiring a full-time supervisor of basketball officials. In addition, the SWC's Basketball Officiating Committee began work on a proposal to set stricter guidelines for coach and player conduct.



20 YEARS AGO ...

2000

• The NCAA Baseball Committee approves fee increases, eligibility rules and a new structure for the Umpire Improvement Program. Presented by

Division I Coordinator of Umpires Dave Yeast, the new measures included regional rotations, conference recommendations, a reduced rest period from two years to one to allow more umpires a chance to work the Division I College World Series and a large increase for CWS game fees.



10 YEARS AGO ...

2010

• After working 4,673 MLB games during a 31-year career, former NL umpire Doug Harvey is inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Harvey became the ninth umpire to be enshrined in the hall.



MISSION

Referee is a magazine written from an officiating perspective, blending editorial credibility and business viability. It educates, challenges and inspires officials at the youth, recreational, high school, collegiate and professional levels in all sports, with an emphasis on baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball and volleyball. *Referee* is the journal of record for officiating and takes informed positions on selected issues. The magazine provides a forum for its readers, facilitates the flow of information, raises public consciousness about officials' roles and serves as a catalyst for improved officiating worldwide.