



Ohio High School Athletic Association
4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Information for Tournament Managers, Coaches and Officials

Where may teams warm up prior to the conclusion of the meeting with coaches and captains?

The designated home team selects its bench. Each team may warm up with or without volleyballs on that team's own side of the net but not on the court itself. All activities including stretching and running should be done off the court and on each team's respective side of the net. Referees should conclude the pre-match meeting by telling the teams that they may take the court. The horn should be sounded at 20:00 to connote that the formal warm-up has started.

What is the OHSAA-mandated warm-up time?

When both teams arrive timely, the 20-minutes post-season tournament warm-up format (2-6-6-3-3) shall be utilized. When a team is late, the OHSAA expects the Tournament Manager (TM) to play the lead role in terms of adjusting warm-ups to fit how late a team arrives at the playing site. Warm-ups shall be modified as needed to try to start the match as close to the published start time as possible. Shared serving should not occur. For 18 minutes (2-5-5-3-3); for 17 minutes (1-5-5-3-3); for 16 minutes (5-5-3-3); and for 15 minutes (1-5-5-2-2).

When does the pre-match meeting with coaches and captains take place for Sectional and District matches?

When the referees arrive, the countdown clock may be set to identify when the meeting with coaches and captains should occur. In any case, no later than 25:00 prior to the scheduled match start time, the first referee blows the whistle and holds up the flip coin to indicate that head coaches are expected to bring their captains to the meeting.

What happens if a team does not arrive until after the time set for the pre-match meeting?

If a team does not appear on site until after 25:00, the clock should continue (or be started) until it is stopped at 20:00 where the time will be held until a referee directs the timer to start the official warm-up or modify the time on the clock to reflect a different warm-up time. If a team is late, the TM and referees should confer to discuss length of warm-up. This discussion addresses unusual circumstances (e.g., bus not timely available, bus breaking down, traffic issues, some other emergency occurring, etc.). This assumes someone connected with the team that is late informs the TM that the team will be late, why and likely time of arrival. This provides information for the TM to bring to the discussion of a reduced warm-up.

If there is no communication to indicate that a legitimate emergency has prevented timely arrival **AND** it is now 30 minutes after the scheduled start time, the TM may determine that a "no contest" situation has occurred, and the team that was present in a timely manner will be advanced on the tournament bracket. This decision belongs to the Tournament Manager in accordance with Board-adopted OHSAA tournament regulations.

However, if there is a communication with the TM from someone connected with the school **AND** the TM determines the circumstances/timing are such that a delay should be allowed, once the "late" team arrives on site, a coaches-captains' meeting should be conducted relatively quickly. This means that if the late team requires use of a locker room, the head coach and a team captain should be asked to participate in the pre-match meeting while the rest of the team does what is necessary to be courtside prepared to play as quickly as possible.

At the meeting, the TM will communicate the length of the warm-up, which may not be less than 15 minutes and which should not involve shared serving. The TM will give as much warm-up time as possible while trying to minimize match delay. When there is a delay in starting the warm-up as described above, the team that is not late will be allowed onto the court to warm up at the conclusion of the pre-match meeting, but the warm-up clock will not start until the arrival courtside of the late team in accordance with guidance from the TM.

EXPECTATIONS OF OFFICIALS: ARRIVAL

Referees & Line Judges

Referees are expected to arrive no later than one (1) hour prior to scheduled match start time. If an emergency occurs, the referee must contact the TM as soon as possible and the District volleyball assigner if a replacement is needed.

Line Judges are expected to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to scheduled match start time. If an emergency occurs, the line judge must contact the TM as soon as possible and the District's volleyball assigner if a replacement is needed.

AFTER ARRIVAL

Referees

Upon arrival, referees should introduce themselves to the TM and request a changing room, which could be used for both the pre-match discussion and the required post-match debrief. Line judges should be included in the post-match debrief. The pre-match is to get everyone on the same page. The debrief is a time to talk frankly and without blame about various match situations, coach-related questions, what went well and what could have been handled better. All officials should open to questions and honest reflection. The first referee should report any official who fails to stay for the required debrief session since this is an expectation of our Director of Development for Volleyball Officiating.

The referees should ask the TM about his/her location before warm-ups begin, where the TM will be during the match and after the match. The TM should provide the order of announcements and National Anthem as well as ensuring that ALL players will be introduced. What is shared by the TM is then communicated with both head coaches. The TM is responsible for alerting the referees if there is to be a late arrival.

A post-match exit plan should be used to ensure quick departure from the playing area and to avoid the teams after the match. Referees ensure the line judges know where the changing/meeting room is located and that an open debrief is conducted for each match. When working back-to-back matches, both debriefs occur at the end of the second match.

REMINDER: Players are not allowed to be on the court itself, with or without volleyballs. Stretching is off the court. At the end of the meeting with coaches/captains, let the teams know they may take the court.

Working with the TM when a team doesn't arrive timely

OHSAA tournament regulations stipulate that "If a volleyball team fails to appear or is not ready to play within 30 minutes of the scheduled starting time of the tournament match, the space on the bracket may be declared vacant." A "no contest" shall be declared, and the opposing team shall advance into the next round of competition. See "No Contest" under Section 35 of the General Sports Regulations. All decisions relative to this regulation shall be made by the TM in accordance with Board-adopted OHSAA tournament regulations.

The OHSAA, in collaboration with the administrative staff, District Athletic Boards and/or Board of Directors, and the tournament manager, may delay or reschedule a volleyball tournament match provided it is **practical** to delay or reschedule such a match. The TM shall follow this written guidance. When a team's arrival would not allow the match to start 30 minutes after the scheduled start time, the TM is required to invoke this regulation. The TM will inform the referees and the coaches IF a match is to be considered a "no contest" where the other team moves on in the tournament. This is not a judgment call for the contest officials but is made by the TM in consultation with District Athletic Board personnel and the OHSAA Commissioner's Office.

If time reaches half an hour before the scheduled start time with one or both teams not present, the TM determines whether the match should be played or whether a delay to the start of the match is justified. If the match is to be played, the TM and referees collaborate on a game plan involving a delayed start to the warm-up and an abbreviated warm-up. Although the intent is to try to give as close to a full 20-minute warm-up as possible, the warm-up may be reduced to no less than 15 minutes to attempt to start the match as soon as possible.

When the late team arrives, the referees and TM determine whether the players are dressed and ready for a coin toss; if not, the referees would allow the team to hustle to the locker room to get dressed, get the head coach and at least one captain to the pre-match meeting as quickly as possible without adding extra stress to an already uncomfortable situation and expeditiously conduct a pre-match conference. At the conclusion of the coaches-captains' meeting, referees discuss the time to start the warm-up and allow the team not at fault to take the court and begin to warm-up on its own side of the court until the other team is present, at which time the clock should start.

AFTER THE MATCH

If there is a delay, ensure a report is filed with district tournament assigner with all the specifics shared.

PRE-MATCH REVIEW FOR OFFICIALS

2015 OHSAA SECTIONAL AND DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS

Pre-Match Position of Officials: As per NFHS protocol, please stand across the court from and facing the officials' table with the R1 to the right of the referee stand and R2 to the left of the stand. Line judges are to stand to the side of the referees away from the net so that the line judge on the R1's side stands to the right of the R1 and the line judge on the R2's side stands to the left of R2. Flags should be placed on stand for the National Anthem. Referees should bring flags. The conference for a second match will begin 25 minutes prior to the scheduled start time for that match OR as soon as possible upon clearing the court based on how long the first match ran.

Uniforms: All uniforms must comply with both OHSAA regulations and NFHS rules. Clean white athletic shoes are required.

Mechanics: Please ensure that all signals comply with National Federation Rules and mechanics. Regarding ball-handling calls, the second referee shall assist ONLY when ball contact is clearly out of the first referee's view. Please thoroughly discuss how partnering will occur and the use of informal help signals as well as scanning, collaborating to get calls right and centering with your partner in your pre-match discussion.

Pre-Match Conference and Coin Toss: Conduct approximately 25:00 prior to the match. A captain should call the toss while the coin is in the air. Do not turn over the coin once caught. This is the approved technique. The clock should start 25 minutes prior to the match. Ask coaches to verify legality of uniforms and equipment. Check to verify if a libero will be used for each team and verify clearly contrasting jerseys and that the libero or regular players are wearing a solid color.

Line Judges Expected to Warm Up Their Eyes during Warm-ups: It is recommended that line judges go to their respective positions in L1 and L2 without flags from 15:00 to 9:00 during team warm-ups to warm up their eyes and without interfering with the warm-up.

Table Personnel: The R2 should review expectations with the official scorer and libero tracker for each match. Ensure everyone has noted where and for whom the libero is serving. Double check that the libero tracker has properly recorded that rotational position with a triangle when/if the libero serves. If the VolleyWrite scoring system is used, please ensure there is a trained spotter, and discuss how information will be communicated and when information should be communicated. Referees are encouraged to study the VolleyWrite system and understand how it works and what features can be used to benefit the match.

Unsporting Conduct: We have emphasized sporting conduct continuously this year and continue to do so. Please apply Rule 12 and the yellow/red card procedures consistently and without hesitation when appropriate. Discuss managing conduct at the pre-match conference.

First and Second Referee: Work together -- be consistent! One whistle on faults – when R2 whistles a fault, R1 doesn't repeat the fault signal. Please display signals away from the body when mechanics dictate. Second referee shall have a line-up card to check initial court positions at start of each set. Charge unnecessary delays using the new delay warning/penalty system.

Misapplication of Rule or Penalty: Check Rules Book if necessary. Charge the team requesting the review of a rule application or a penalty a time-out if the decision prevails. If the request results in a third time-out because the referees' decision prevails, a loss of rally/point is awarded to the opponent. If a team does not request a clarification, but either official feels there may be an error, don't hesitate to consult the Rules Book/Case Book to get it right. There would be no time-out charged to either team in this case.

Out-of-bounds: Determine playable/non-playable areas and communicate this clearly in the pre-match meeting. The player may penetrate the out of bounds area as long as a body part is in contact with a playable area.

Time-Out or Substitution: Double whistles distinguish these requests from whistles that start or stop a rally. All time-outs are 60 seconds unless both teams are ready to resume play. Ensure all time-outs are ended with a double whistle or a horn. For injury or illness situations, start 30-second clock on your wristwatch as soon as help reaches the player. Allow approximately 30 seconds for evaluation at which time a decision is needed regarding able to play, calling a T.O. or deciding to substitute. If a time-out is called or substitution is requested, allow all the needed time to safely remove the injured player from the court. The timer IS NOT to sound the horn at the end of the 30 seconds but will make eye communication with the second referee to denote the end of the time for evaluation. Note: Bleeding is considered an injury.

Line Judges: PLEASE USE APPROVED BY-THE-BOOK LINE JUDGE SIGNALS AS INDICATED WHEN USING FLAGS!

Working with a VolleyWrite™ Scorer: Prior to the match, the R2 should discuss expectations prior with a VolleyWrite™ Scorer (VWS). The VWS is assisted by a required trained "spotter" who partners to capture all substitutions and libero exchanges. A flash drive is used as a backup. Sometimes, there may be a second VolleyWrite™ device at the officials' table.

The R2's expectations should include communication by the VolleyWrite Scorer of number of time-outs used by both teams, number of subs used, libero in/out for both teams at a time-out, libero serving, wrong server information upon service contact, libero rotating to the front row, wrong player replacing the libero, a libero preparing to serve in a second position in the serve order in the same set, proper players on the court and in correct positions to start a set. In other words, this is essentially the same information the R2 would want from a scorer using a paper scoresheet.