

17 Oct 2025

From: Ed Tucholski, MPSSAA Volleyball Rules Interpreter
To: State Tournament Referees
Subj: TOURNAMENT MEMORANDUM

1. First, please review the state tournament bulletin at <https://www.mpssaa.org/information-center/mpssaa-publications-and-content/>. The volleyball section starts on page 43.
2. Of note, per NFHS Rule 1-6-1, the home team selects its team bench. By state association adoption in accordance with NFHS Rule 9-1 and 9-2-2, all teams will remain on the same benches and side of the court during all regular and postseason matches.
3. Regarding the required ball, the Girls State Volleyball Committee requires the use of the Molten IV58L Super Touch leather ball during the region and state tournaments. If a host school does not have the necessary ball, play the match with an NFHS authenticated ball, but immediately inform your assigning organization so the tournament committee can be informed.
4. Various counties use different warmup timing routines, and to the maximum extent possible, the routine of the host school will be followed with these specifications from the tournament bulletin. Be sure to include this information in your pre-match conference with coaches and captains.
 - a. At least 15 minutes of shared-court time (use of 1/2 court only, no over-the-net play).
 - b. The use of the game net shall be six minutes for the Home Team first, followed by six minutes for the Visiting Team. Teams may use their six minutes in any way they want, including serving.
5. Many officials who are normally assigned as the first referee for the varsity match will find themselves as the second referee for the tournament. I would ask local assignors to consider the experience of the second referee when making these assignments. If you are the R2, your ENTIRE responsibility is the net and centerline. If, as the R2, you are following the ball or watching the first contact, you ARE missing nets. Full Stop. You must stay at the net through the entire blocking action to include the landing of the blocker's feet. If you catch yourself drifting to watch the first pass off of a spike, you have left the net early. I need you to recognize that and correct it.
6. Double contacts. In my opinion, the "no second contact double rule" is a great improvement for the game, BUT we must still be calling balls that go over the net after a double contact. Double contacts are only legal if they stay on the side of the net of the team that made the double. Double contacts that cross the net (except the first ball) are to be called doubles.
7. NFHS has published a series of interpretations that are also on the MPSSAA Interpreter Zone and are worth your time to review. Quiz #2 is also posted on the Interpreter Zone and reviews some of the highlights. <https://www.mpssaa.org/officials/mpssaa-volleyball-rules-interpreter-zone/>

Ed Tucholski