

Second Half of the Season Notes

1. The Casebook and Officials Manual. Many officials only own a rule book. This represents the absolute minimum requirement and it must be with you courtside at every match. You need to understand that failure to read the Casebook and Officials Manual will eventually get you into trouble, particularly if you are new to the sport of volleyball. The casebook amplifies and clarifies rules through many examples. The Officials Manual discusses techniques, protocols, mechanics and procedures you should be using as you facilitate your matches.
2. Protests. Technically, NFHS rules do not contain a “protest rule.” Instead, the coach should ask to take a time out for a rule review. Judgment cannot be reviewed, but incorrect application or interpretation of a rule certainly can be discussed at the review conference. This is why your explanation of a call must be a correct statement of the rules. Otherwise, the coach is entitled to review the decision. Do not incorrectly deny the coach the opportunity to review a non-judgment decision! If the coach is unsure of the correct way to ask for a decision review, you should explain the aspects of rule 11-3 and ask the coach if that is what they want to do.
3. Sanctions. Use sanctions as needed to point out and control bad behavior. Recently, an assistant coach made an inappropriate hand gesture to a referee, yelled at a linejudge, then approached the referee in a hostile manner between sets. The sanctions clearly should have escalated in this situation, first a yellow card for the hand gesture. Next a red card for yelling at the linejudge. Finally, a disqualification for hostile conduct between sets. We need to communicate immediately to all observers and participants that inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. It must be done from the ladder using cards.
4. Screening. “Players on the serving team shall not take action to prevent receivers from seeing the contact of the serve or the path of the served ball.” Here is the picture of a served



ball recently called for a screen. As you can see, the libero has good eye contact with the ball that is circled in red. She is moving to play it. This is probably not a screen because the ball

has a sufficiently high trajectory. Casebook articles 6.5.2 Situations A, B, and C provide guidance on this point. Additionally, Appendix J of the Officials Manual provides guidelines to help officials get the call right.

5. Libero re-designation. A team may use different liberos in different sets. If a libero is injured and needs to be re-designated, Casebook article 10.4.2 Situations B and C tell you when the re-designation can be accomplished.
6. If a spectator becomes unruly, suspend the set until the host management resolves the situation. If spectator follows you out to the parking lot, stay with your partner. Get help from the host school. Do not engage. Call 911 if you feel threatened.