

Rule 2—The Court

SECTION 1 THE COURT AND MARKINGS

ART. 1 . . . The court shall be 60 feet (18 meters) long and 30 feet (9 meters) wide, measured to the outer edges of the boundary lines. It is recommended that the area above the court be clear of any obstructions and at least 23 feet (7 meters) high.

ART. 2 . . . It is recommended all boundary lines be of one clearly visible color contrasting to the color of the floor and other lines on the floor

ART. 3 . . . Boundary lines shall be 2 inches (5 centimeters) wide. There shall be at least 6 feet (2 meters) and preferably 10 feet of unobstructed space outside the boundary lines. The end lines are the boundary lines on the short sides of the court. The sidelines are the boundary lines on the long sides of the court.

ART. 4 . . . A center line, 2 inches (5 centimeters) wide, parallel to and equidistant from the end lines, shall separate the court into two playing areas.

ART. 5 . . . An attack line, 2 inches (5 centimeters) wide, shall be drawn across each playing area from sideline to sideline, the midpoint of which shall be 10 feet (3 meters) from the midpoint of the center line and parallel to it.

ART. 6 . . . A serving area which is 30 feet (9 meters) wide shall be provided behind and excluding the end line. It shall be laterally limited by two short lines, each 6 inches (15 centimeters) long by 2 inches (5 centimeters) wide, drawn 8 inches (20 centimeters) behind and perpendicular to the end line, as extensions of the sidelines. Both lines are included in the width of the serving area.

Each serving area shall be a minimum of 6 feet (2 meters) in depth. In the event that such a space is not available, the serving area shall extend into the court to whatever distance necessary to provide the minimum depth and be so marked.

ART. 7 . . . The substitution zone is the area near the sideline between the attack line and the center line.

Rule 3—Game Equipment

The NFHS does not perform scientific tests on any specific items of equipment to determine if the equipment poses undue risks to student-athletes, coaches, officials or spectators. Such determinations are the responsibility of equipment manufacturers.

SECTION 1 THE NET AND MARKINGS

ART. 1 . . . The net shall be 3 feet (1 meter) wide overall and at least 32 feet (9.5 meters) in length when stretched. It shall consist of 4-inch-square (10 centimeters) mesh of at least No. 21 size dark, natural or synthetic cord. A plain white 2-inch wide double thickness of canvas or single thickness of durable synthetic material shall be sewn along the full length of the top of the net.

Through the top shall run a 1/8 to 3/16-inch-diameter flexible steel cable (or aramid -type fiber cable no more than 1/4-inch thick which is no heavier, has no more stretch and has at least as much tensile strength as the required steel cable). Through the bottom shall run a 1/8 to 3/16-inch-diameter flexible steel cable or a 1/4 -inch rope. Any exposed steel cable and/or metal tensioning device through the top and bottom of the net shall be covered.

Through each side may be inserted a 1/2 to 1-inch-diameter wooden, metal or fiberglass rod which, when the net is installed, holds the sides perpendicular to the floor

NOTE: Net systems which do not have a cable/rope through the top or bottom, of the net are legal provided they meet all other rule specifications, and the entire net remains taut at the sprayed net height.

ART. 2 . . . The net shall be attached to upright standards which are 3 feet (1 meter) outside the court or from its four corners to walls which are at least 6 feet (2 meters) from the sideline.

ART. 3 . . . The net supports include any attachments to the net used for anchoring the net to walls or upright standards, as well as the standards themselves and any attachments used for anchoring the standards to the floor or walls or ceiling. The standards, referee's platform and floor/wall cables shall be padded as follows:

a. Standards must be padded to a minimum height of 5-1/2 feet with at least 1-inch-thick, resilient, shock-absorbing material (such as polyethylene foam) to encase the uprights and all tensioning devices.

- b. Front and sides of referee's platform must be padded in the same manner as the standards.
- c. Any guy cables or rigid braces must be padded to a minimum height of 5-1/2 feet with at least 1/2 inch-thick resilient, shock-absorbing material.

ART. 4 . . . Net placement shall be such that the net crosses the court midway between and parallel to the end lines. The height of the net shall be 7 feet, 4-1/8 inches (2.24 meters) for girls and 7 feet, 11-5/8 inches (2.43 meters) for boys measured at the center of the net. The net measured at the ends shall not exceed these heights by more than 3/4 inch.

ART. 5 . . . Net antennas shall be attached to the net in line with the outside edge of the sideline and extend upward at least 2-1/2 feet but no more than 3-1/2 feet above the net. The antennas shall be fastened securely to the top and bottom of the net. They shall be of an unbreakable material no more than 3/8 inch in diameter with alternating 4-inch to 6-inch white and orange or red bands

ART. 6 . . . A safe, stable platform, which elevates the referee's head to between 2 and 3 feet above the top of the net, is required. It is recommended the top of the platform be at least 18 inches long by 12 inches wide, and that steps up to the platform be provided.

SECTION 2 THE BALL

ART. 1 . . . The ball shall be spherical with a faceless molded cover of 12 or more pieces (all of which shall be white) of genuine or simulated smooth leather (not suede). It shall measure at least 25 inches but no more than 27 inches in circumference, with a weight of 9-10 ounces when inflated with 4.3 - 4.6 pounds per square inch of air pressure.

ART. 2 . . . The home team shall provide game balls.

ART. 3 . . . The ball shall include the NFHS Authenticating Mark. The mark can be displayed in either format:



A current list of NFHS authenticated products can be found on the Web site, www.nfhs.org.

SECTION 3 THE SCORESHEET AND SCOREBOARD

ART. 1 . . . A scoresheet shall be supplied by the host team and kept at the officials' table from at least 20 minutes before the match and throughout the match. It shall provide adequate space for lineups, individual scoring, team scoring and time-outs. It also shall provide space in a Comments section for recording warnings, penalties and disqualifications for unsportsmanlike conduct, removal of a player who is rendered unconscious or apparently unconscious; exceptional substitutions, and uniform/equipment violations.

The visiting team may maintain a second scoresheet at the officials' table, but that supplied by the host team is official unless the referee determines otherwise.

ART. 2 . . . A scoreboard visible to teams, officials and spectators is required.

SECTION 4 THE OFFICIALS' TABLE

ART. 1 . . . The officials' table, where the official scorer and timer and their respective assistants sit, shall be placed at least 6 feet (10 feet preferred when space permits) outside the court sideline opposite the referee.

SECTION 5 TEAM BENCHES

ART. 1 . . . Team benches shall be on the same side of the court as the officials' table, placed no closer to the sideline than 6 feet (2 meters) and no closer to the out-of-bounds extension of the center line than 10 feet (3 meters).

PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL GAME EQUIPMENT:

1. When the host school does not pad the standards, floor/wall cables and referee's platform according to Rule 3-1-3, the match shall not be played, and the state association shall be notified.
2. When game equipment, other than required padding, does not meet rule specifications, the match shall be conducted, and the improper conditions reported to the appropriate authority.