

## Week #4 – September 3, 2024

*Please read through this information as this is important information coaches and officials need to be aware of this season. These newsletters will be sent weekly throughout the season. If you are aware of an unusual situation or rules/protocols that should be addressed, please email [ssmith@kshsaa.org](mailto:ssmith@kshsaa.org). Thank you for all you do for Kansas athletes!*

### **NFHS POINT OF EMPHASIS – BALL HANDLING**

Volleyball is a rebound sport, and players are able to use any body part to play the ball. The official's judgment on the legality of each contact continues to be a controversial topic. The goal for players is to master ball control; for officials it is a goal to maintain a consistent level of ball handling from set to set and from match to match. Coaches play a role in the consistency equation with their methods of training, the expectations placed on their players, and the desired level of allowance by the officials. The spectators are influenced by their coaches' reactions, the spin of the ball, and their personal opinions, while the officials need to remain neutral to maintain fairness for both teams.

**It was stated in a previous NFHS Volleyball Points of Emphasis that volleyball's goal was to increase the continuation of play when judging second ball contacts that are directed to a teammate.** A player in a good position must play the ball without discernible double contact. Less severe judgment is applied to a contact by a player who makes a challenging or spectacular play while maintaining a legal play.

**IF THERE IS DISCERNIBLE DOUBLE CONTACT – A WHISTLE SHOULD FOLLOW.** The spin of the volleyball coming off the set or the sound made upon contact does not dictate if a double contact should be called. It should be clear that one part of the body contacted the ball before another part of the body resulting in double contact.

Mishandled balls resulting in a blatant fault should still be called, regardless of the challenging or spectacular nature of the play. Multiple contacts on the third ball must be whistled.

With the increase of the players' athleticism, officials are being challenged to judge the legality of the first contact, as well. The rule states that the ball is not allowed to come to rest or involve prolonged contact. The fact that the contact is an underhand action or done with an open hand is not an automatic call. Players can legally take a stab at the ball in an attempt to keep the ball alive as they pursue an errant contact from their teammate. A whistle should accompany prolonged contact. All skills should be judged similarly, according to the rules. Players are utilizing the setter dump effectively, while attackers are tipping the ball deeper into their opponent's court and tipping with more power. Officials must determine where the ball contact was initiated in relation to the body and judge how long the player continued the action while in contact with the ball.

### **LINE JUDGES**

- 1) If teams stay at their respective benches – LINE JUDGES WILL SWITCH ENDLINES.
- 2) If teams switch benches – LINE JUDGES WILL STAY AT THEIR ENDLINES.
- 3) There will always be a switch – either teams will switch benches or line judges will switch endlines.

## ***REMINDER(S):***

### **ROSTERED PLAYERS STANDING AT THE ENDLINE TO START A MATCH**

Due to the new rule change, all ROSTERED athletes may stand at the endline prior to the start of the match. **THE STARTING SIX (6) ATHLETES are the only athletes allowed to greet the visiting team and step on the court.** Non-starters should make their way to their sideline/bench area after the starting six athletes are beckoned on the court.

### **Looking Ahead:**

-Don't forget a team picture for postseason!

-October 2-9, 2024: Postseason Officials Recommendations Window for Schools (must recommend 7; may recommend up to 12)

-October 9, 2024: Official's Postseason Applications due

-October 13, 2024: 3-1A Records must be updated on the KSHSAA website by 8:00 AM

-October 21, 2024: 4-6A Records must be updated on the KSHSAA website by 8:00 AM

### **Useful Websites/Links**

KSHSAA Volleyball Website: [Volleyball \(kshsaa.org\)](http://volleyball.kshsaa.org)

KSHSAA Volleyball Manual: [Volleyball.pdf \(kshsaa.org\)](http://volleyball.pdf(kshsaa.org))

NFHS Volleyball Website: [Volleyball \(nfhs.org\)](http://volleyball.nfhs.org)

NFHS Learn: [NFHS Learn | Interscholastic Education, Made Easy](http://nfhs.org/learn)

KSHSAA Officials Apparel Info: [OfficialApparel.pdf \(kshsaa.org\)](http://officialapparel.pdf(kshsaa.org))