

Return to Competition: General Considerations for Volleyball



Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)
National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)
Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)
Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)
Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC)

SPORT: Volleyball **STAFF LIAISON:** Jen Grassel

The NFHS has determined that volleyball is a moderate risk sport (sports that involve close, sustained contact, but with protective equipment in place that may reduce the likelihood of respiratory particle transmission between participants OR intermittent close contact OR group sports OR sports that use equipment that can't be cleaned between participants).

**Volleyball could potentially be considered "Lower Risk" with appropriate cleaning of equipment and use of masks by participants.)*

VOLLEYBALL RULES CONSIDERATIONS:

- **PRE-MATCH CONFERENCE:**
 - Limit attendees to the first referee, head coach, and one captain from each team.
 - Move the location of the pre-match conference to center court with one coach and one referee positioned on each side of the net. All four individuals should maintain a social distance of 6 feet.
 - Suspend roster submission at the pre-match conference. Rosters should be submitted directly to the officials' table before the 10-minute mark.
- **TEAM BENCHES**
 - Suspend the protocol of teams switching sides/benches between sets.
 - Home team will select their bench prior to the match and remain on the same side for the duration of the match.
 - Team areas may be expanded to promote social distancing outside of playable areas.
- **DECIDING SET PROCEDURES:**
 - Move the location of the deciding set coin toss to center court with team captains and the second referee maintaining the appropriate social distance of 6 feet. A coin toss, called by the home team, will decide serve/receive.
 - Suspend the protocol of teams switching sides/benches before a deciding set.
- **SUBSTITUTION PROCEDURES:**
 - Maintain social distancing of 6 feet between the second referee and the player and substitute by encouraging substitutions to occur within the substitution zone closer to the attack line.
- **OFFICIALS' TABLE:**
 - Limit to essential personnel (which includes home team scorer, libero tracker and timer), with a recommend distance of 6 feet between individuals. Visiting team

personnel (scorer, statisticians, etc.) are not deemed essential personnel and will need to find an alternative location.

VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS MANUAL CONSIDERATIONS:

○ PRE AND POST MATCH CEREMONY

- Establish volleyball specific social distancing match protocols including the elimination of handshakes before and after the match.

VOLLEYBALL RULES INTERPRETATIONS:

○ EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES:

- Cloth face coverings are permitted.
- Gloves are permitted.

○ LEGAL UNIFORM

- Long sleeves are permitted.
- Long pants are permitted.
- Under garments are permitted, but must be unadorned and of a single, solid color similar in color to the predominant color of the uniform top or bottom.

○ OFFICIALS UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT:

- By state association adoption, long-sleeved, all-white collared polo shirt/sweater is permitted. (Electronic whistles are permitted.)
- Face coverings are permitted.
- Gloves are permitted.

CONSIDERATION FOR VOLLEYBALL OFFICIALS:

- Please review the General Considerations for Officials.
- Officials are permitted to use electronic whistles but must be aware of signaling difficulties when using both hands and the increased chance of inadvertent whistles.
- Use of a three ball rotation system should be considered for matches. This would allow for periodic sanitation of the balls.