



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

NEWS RELEASE

Relaxed Hair Adornment, Uniform Rules Among Administrative Changes Set for High School Volleyball in 2022-23

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lindsey Atkinson

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (June 3, 2022) — Hair adornments such as beads are now legal in high school volleyball as long as they are securely fastened and do not endanger other players. This rule change, along with eliminating manufacturer reference size and quantity restrictions on uniform bottom waistbands, headline new rules adopted for the 2022-23 season.

In all, seven rules changes were recommended by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Volleyball Rules Committee at its annual meeting January 16-18. All rules changes were reviewed and approved by the NFHS Board of Directors.

“Most of this year’s rules changes deal with the administrative side of things. The NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee really feels like the sport is in a great place,” said Jo Auch, assistant executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association and chair of the NFHS Volleyball Rules Committee. “The two changes of note relax restrictions on hair adornments such as beads, as well as the number of manufacturer logos on uniform bottoms. We’ve seen some different trends in these areas that helped lead to the changes we made. We feel pretty positive about them and believe coaches, officials and players will, too.”

To align officials' rulings on flat barrettes and other hair adornments, the Volleyball Rules Committee eliminated size restrictions of 2 inches or less that were previously cited in Rule 4-1-6. The rule now allows for bobby pins, flat clips, flat barrettes and other adornments to legally be worn in the hair as long they do not present a safety hazard to the player, teammates or opponents.

The adoption of changes to Rule 4-2-1f presents student-athletes with the opportunity to wear uniform bottoms featuring multiple manufacturer logos, trademarks or references that exceed 2¼ inches on waistbands. Oftentimes, student-athletes are responsible for supplying their own uniform bottom. Given current trends in the sport of volleyball, the rules committee recognized the lack of uniform bottoms available to student-athletes without substantial manufacturer representation.

"The Volleyball Rules Committee took another step in creating a more inclusive environment within the sport by relaxing restrictions on hair adornments," said Lindsey Atkinson, NFHS director of sports and liaison to the Volleyball Rules Committee. "It was extremely important to the rules committee to create rules language that supported diversity of hair trends while minimizing the risk of injury to the athlete, teammates and opponents."

Another focal point of the committee was the alignment of Rule 5-6-3b, e, and Rule 5-7-3e, addressing scorer and libero notification procedures. The committee's actions eliminate the use of the sounding device when an improper server is used and aligns the notification to that of a discrepancy in the score, at which point the second referee is notified during the first dead ball.

Other changes adopted by the Volleyball Rules Committee include additional allowances for time-out and substitution-related requests by a head coach, assistant coach or playing captain.

Changes to Rule 11-2-1 now allow for verbalized requests for a time-out on a dead ball by the head coach or playing captain prior to the first referee's signal for the ensuing serve. This allows the second referee to grant a time-out during a dead ball without visual signal when heard verbalized by a head coach or captain and not require the visual signal.

The introduction of new language to Rule 12-2-5a clarifies that assistant coaches may ask the second referee for the number of their team’s substitutions during a dead-ball situation. Previously, the rule allowed for assistant coaches to review the accuracy of the score, verify the number of time-outs, request the serving order of the assistant coach’s team, and verify the proper server for the opponent.

A complete listing of the volleyball rules changes will be available on the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org. Click on “Activities & Sports” at the top of the home page and select “Volleyball.”

According to the most recent NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey, volleyball is the second-most popular sports for girls (trailing track and field) with 452,808 participants in 16,572 schools nationwide. In addition, there are 63,563 boys participating in the sport at 2,692 schools, and 25 states conduct state championships in boys volleyball.

This press release was written by Cody Porter, manager of media relations at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

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About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including almost eight million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at www.nfhs.org.

MEDIA CONTACTS: Bruce Howard, 317-972-6900
Director of Publications and Communications

National Federation of State High School Associations
bhoward@nfhs.org

Chris Boone, 317-972-6900
Assistant Director of Publications and Communications
National Federation of State High School Associations
cboone@nfhs.org

Cody Porter, 317-972-6900
Manager of Media Relations
National Federation of State High School Associations
cporter@nfhs.org

Nate Perry, 317-972-6900
Coordinator of Media Relations
National Federation of State High School Associations
nperry@nfhs.org