

# Prior Case Book Situations of the Month

## July 2020 - #7

### **CONTACTING THE BALL/PLAYER ACTIONS**

During a rally, A12 completes an attack that is contacted by blocker B3, a front-row player who is jumping, while the ball and B3's hands are completely below the height of the net. B10 then passes the ball to B5, the setter, who sets the ball to B8. B8 spikes the ball and sends it over the net to the opponent's side. The first referee blows the whistle as soon as B8 contacts the ball and awards a point to team A.

#### **Ruling:**

Correct Procedure. For a contact to be considered a block, the blocker must be reaching higher than the top of the net at the moment of contact. In this case B3's contact of the ball happens when the hands are completely below the height of the net, making this the first allowable hit for team B. When B8 contacts the ball, it is the team's fourth hit (9-5-1c, 9-4-3).

## July 2020 - #6

### **EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORIES (NEW RULE)**

A substitute from Team S attempts to enter the set wearing a face mask of hard material molded to the face to protect a broken nose.

#### **Ruling:**

Legal. A protective face mask made of hard material is compliant equipment if it is molded to the face and without protrusions. (4-1-4).

## July 2020 - #5

### **ROSTERS**

The first referee whistles/signals for the pre-match conference. The coach from Team A does not present a roster to the second referee. After the referees remind the coaches that team rosters are due at the pre-match conference the coach from Team A immediately runs back to his bench and returns with his roster and submits it to the second referee. The officials do not assess any penalty.

#### **Ruling:**

Correct Procedure. Although the coach did not have his roster with him when first arriving at the pre-match conference, officials shall utilize preventative officiating and allow the coach to retrieve and submit the roster when it is ready and easily accessible as in this situation (7-1-1).

## July 2020 - #4

### **TIMEOUTS**

During the third set with the score 24-24, the head coach of team B calls a timeout. The second referee recognizes the timeout. The scorer then notifies the second referee that team B has already used its allotted timeouts. The second referee tells the coach the information then gives the court back to the first referee.

**RULING:**

Incorrect. Once the second referee whistles and recognizes the timeout request and is informed that team B has no timeouts remaining, the timeout request is denied, and an unnecessary delay should be issued (11-2 Pen. 2).

**July 2020 - #3****CONDUCT**

After an intense first set that team A wins 29-27, the teams begin to exchange courts. During the course of the exchange, A2 makes an obscene comment and gesture toward B3 that is heard by the second referee. The second referee blows the whistle and issues a yellow card to A2.

**RULING:**

Incorrect procedure. The second referee in this instance can request an unsporting card from the R1. The second referee should ensure the warning, penalty or disqualification sanction is recorded on the scoresheet. When the teams return to the court for the next set to begin, the first referee displays the appropriate card to begin the set (12-2 Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations #2, 12- 2 Pen.1a,b,c).

**July 2020 - #2****PLAYER ACTIONS**

A3 is a back-row player who is making team A's second contact. A3 is in front of the attack line and the ball is completely above the height of the net at the moment of contact. The ball is sent into the plane of the net where B5 goes up for a block. Before B5 can make contact, A16 comes in and attacks the ball into B's court where it lands in-bounds. The first referee blows the whistle and awards a point to team B and signals illegal back-row attack against team A.

**RULING:**

Incorrect procedure. The contact by A16 was legal as it was team A's third contact. While the ball was in the plane of the net, either team could have contacted the ball next. Had the ball been touched by B5 to complete the attack by team A, an illegal back-row attack would have occurred because the ball would have been attacked by a back-row player who was in front of the attack line while the ball was completely above the height of the net (9-5-4, 9-5-5 NOTE, 9-4-4).

**July 2020 - #1****NON-TEAM MEMBER INTERFERENCE:**

During a rally, A3 is in the process of trying to make a play on a ball near the bleachers. The ball hits the ceiling after the team's second contact and is redirected toward the endline where LJ1 is standing. As A3 adjusts to make a play on the ball, the LJ1 inadvertently steps in the way and knocks A3 to the ground as the ball lands inbounds. The first referee calls for a replay.

**RULING:**

Correct. A replay may be issued when an official interferes with a player's legitimate effort to play the ball in a playable area (9-8-1f1).

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**June 2020 - #2**

**BLOCKING:**

A3 is a back-row player. Along with teammates A20 and A35, player A3 jumps at the net to form a collective block. B10 recognizes the situation and attempts to hit the ball off the block. The ball misses the blockers and lands out of bounds. The first referee blows the whistle and awards a point to team A. B10, who is also the captain, approaches the first referee and requests the call be overturned because A3 was a back-row player who jumped as part of a collective block.

**RULING:**

There is no back-row block violation against team A because the ball did not contact any player forming the collective block during the attack (NFHS 9-5-1c3).

**June 2020 - #1**

**SUSPENDED PLAY:**

With the score tied at 10 in the deciding set, the first referee beckons for serve. As S20 goes back to serve, the lights in the facility go out and play is halted. The first referee learns from host management the lights will not be able to be restored until the following day. The first referee declares the match a tie.

**Ruling:**

Incorrect Procedure:

The match is suspended unless the state association determines otherwise. If play is resumed, the score and lineup shall be the same as they were at the moment of suspension (1-7).