

TEST YOURSELF

In each of the following, you are given a situation and possible answer(s). You are to decide which answer(s) are correct for NFHS, NCAA or USAV rules, which might vary. **Solutions: p. 81**

1. Player A2 and B44 jump to play a ball that is in the plane of the net. The ball is legally played onto team A's side, where play continues after a dig. As A2 and B44 return to the floor, A2 lands with one foot partially on the center line and partially on B44's foot, which is near the center line. Both players quickly return to play. The first referee should:

- Whistle and signal a center-line fault.
- Allow play to continue.
- Whistle and signal a replay.
- Allow play to continue unless B44 complains of interference.

2. The first referee beckons for serve. Player S10 goes back for a jump serve. As she tosses the ball for serve, S10 realizes that the libero should be the server. S10 lets the tossed ball land on the floor. The referee should:

- Whistle and direct a re-serve.
- Whistle and assess an administrative yellow card for delay.
- Whistle and charge team S with a timeout.
- None of the above.

3. During play, team B's libero runs into a nonplayable area to attempt to return a teammate's shanked pass. However, the ball hits a beam in the ceiling over the non-playable area and returns to team B's playing area, where it is played by B4. The first referee should:

- Whistle and signal out of bounds.
- Whistle and signal touch.
- Allow play to continue.
- Whistle and signal illegal contact on B4.

4. Team A's libero is wearing a solid royal blue top with white lettering. Team A's uniform tops are a solid white with royal blue piping and lettering. All players on the team are wearing red shorts. This uniform combination is:

- Illegal.
- Legal.

Referee response – “Although you did not jump, part of your body was higher than the top of the net when you made contact with the ball. That makes you a blocker.”

Referee team decisions

- A ball contacts the net near the antenna, and team A immediately reacts as if the ball contacted the antenna. There is no whistle by the referees and play continues. At the conclusion of the rally (and after losing the rally), team A's captain runs to the referee's stand.

Referee decision – Allow play to continue after the action near the antenna and eventually award the point to team B.

Captain – “That ball hit the antenna. Can you ask the line judge?”

Referee response – “It was definitely close. As soon as it crossed the net I looked at the line judges and my partner, and neither signaled that the ball was out.”

Note: Typically, one can assume that if either line judge saw an antenna fault, he or she would immediately signal. However, the experience level of the line judges should be considered, and it might be a good idea to call one or both line judges to the stand for a brief conference.

- The second referee whistles and signals a net fault on a team B player. As the second referee is giving the number of the player in the net, the

team B captain approaches the stand.

Referee decision – Award the rally to team A and show the number of the player who committed the net fault.

Captain – “He/she wasn't in the net! Can you overrule that call?”

Referee response – “No, I'm not going to overrule that call. I was watching the setter's hands and my partner was watching the net — I trust his or her judgment.”

Referees are responsible for facilitating a match to its conclusion — communication with captains is one important aspect of their duties.

During these interactions, practice using fewer words and not taking anything personally. When things get heated, remember that cool heads prevail. Referees should be approachable, listen to what is being asked (or said), and respond clearly and succinctly using rules verbiage. Using good communication skills (e.g. position, body posture, language) demonstrates to the coaches, captains and fans that we are always in control ... even in the most intense situations.

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Brace Yourself

By Marsha Goodwin North

Braces are not just for the teeth anymore. In researching the topic of athletic braces, it is apparent there is a plethora of braces on the market today for almost any body part. Athletes compete knowing the possibility of injury and often need some type of support to be able to return to activity. Braces may be self-prescribed or the injury/surgery/pain could warrant the intervention of medical personnel. Many medical

doctors today specialize in sports injuries, treatment and prevention. The issue of paramount importance is the safety of the athlete. Referees must use the rules of the sport and common sense to address the issue and determine whether to allow athletes to participate with a brace. Some braces will require written permission from a governing body such as the NCAA, USA Volleyball, NAIA, NFHS or a state athletic association utilizing NFHS volleyball rules.