



2011-12 VOLLEYBALL RULES COMMITTEE MEETING PROPOSED RULES/EDITORIAL CHANGES

No.	Page	Reference	PROPOSED CHANGES WITH RATIONALE <u>Underlining</u> shows additions; strikethrough shows deletions	Submitted By	Pass	Fail	No Action
RULES CHANGES							
Rules Book							
Rule 1 – The Game							
1	8	1-2-2	<p>ART. 2...A match shall include let serve.</p> <p>Renumber existing articles.</p> <p>Rationale: There is no definition of a let serve anywhere in the rules book. As such, there is no reason to permit it to be legal, as it is assumed legal by omission. This is a left over from many years ago and now serves no useful purpose.</p>	Louis Ventura, CA			
2	8	1-2-3 NOTE 1	<p>1. By state high school adoption, teams may play a best two of three set match <u>in invitational tournaments only</u> in which a team is considered the winner of the match when it wins two sets...</p> <p>Rationale: This would allow for consistency throughout the season since most states play 3/5 in post season play. With the economy and teams often playing fewer matches to avoid the expense of traveling, it would allow for more play. Modification for invitational tournaments allows for more matches, more teams and less time.</p>	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
Rule 2 – The Court							
3	10	2-1-new 1 and 2	<p><u>ART. 1...The playable area for competition includes the court and the unobstructed space outside of the court boundary lines. The playable area outside of the court boundary lines must be visible to all team members and officials.</u></p> <p><u>ART. 2...Nonplayable area is that space located beyond the court and surrounding playable area. It includes walls, bleachers, team benches and area behind the benches, area between scorer's table and team benches and any other areas identified in the pre-match conference, deemed by the first referee, as unsuitable for playable area.</u></p> <p>Renumber existing articles.</p>	Dru Nix, SC			

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			Rationale: Rules currently refer to these areas but do not define anywhere in rules book.				
4	12	2-5-1 and 2-6	<p>SECTION 5 NON-TEAM MEMBERS NONPLAYABLE AREAS</p> <p>ART. 1...<u>Nonplayable areas are defined as:</u></p> <p>a. <u>Walls, bleachers or other spectator seating areas;</u></p> <p>b. <u>Team benches and any area behind them;</u></p> <p>c. <u>Area between the scorekeeper's table and team benches; and</u></p> <p>d. <u>Any other area outlined in the pre-match conference that is deemed by the first referee to be unsuitable or hazardous.</u></p> <p>SECTION 6 NON-TEAM MEMBERS</p> <p>Non-team members include but are not limited to all authorized officials, media personnel (including equipment) and spectators located in playable areas.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarifies what is defined as non-playable area. Redefines area between the scorekeeper's table and team benches as nonplayable are.</p>	Jan Filip, CA			
			Rule 3 – Game Equipment				
5	12	3-1-1	<p>The net shall be 3 feet <u>36 inches to 39 inches</u> (1 meter) wide overall and at least 32 feet (9.5 meters) <u>31'6" (9.5 meters) up to 33 feet (10 meters)</u> in length when stretched.</p> <p>Rationale: The inclusion of a range makes legal the various equipment being played on by high school teams should matches be played in college facilities. No increased cost for schools and eliminates need for manufacturers to make different nets which many schools are not correctly purchasing.</p>	Dru Nix, SC			
6	12	3-1-1	<p>...A plain white 2-inch (5 cm) wide double thickness of canvas or single thickness of durable synthetic material shall be sewn along the full length of the top of the net. <u>It is permissible to place the school name, insignia and/or school mascot along the top of the net by way of a decal or professional printing.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Permitting the use of the school name/mascot on the top of the net may help draw attention to the net allowing officials and players to focus better because of the color contrast. The inclusion of the school name, insignia and/or mascot on the white tape can help foster school spirit and does not interfere with play and/or officiating.</p>	Debbie Moore, OH			
7	12	3-1-1	<p>A plain white 2-inch (5 cm) to 2 ¾ inch wide double thickness of canvas or single thickness of durable synthetic material shall be sewn along the full length of the top</p>	Dru Nix, SC			

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			<p>of the net. <u>A white net sleeve, no wider than 3 ¼ inches (8.6 cm) may be installed along the top of the net. It shall be secured so it does not affect the net height or interfere with play.</u></p> <p>Rationale: The inclusion of the range makes legal the various equipment being played on by high schools when in college facilities. Permitting the use of the school name/mascot on the top of the net may help draw attention to the net allowing officials and players to focus better because of the color contrast. The use of a manufactured sleeve allows the school to place their name or logo on the net without expense of a custom net.</p>				
8	13	3-1-6	<p>ART. 6 . . . A safe, stable platform which to elevate the first referee's head to between 2 and 3 feet <u>eyes to approximately 1 ½ feet to 2 feet</u> above the top of the net <u>with the front and sides padded (Rule 3-1-3b)</u>, is required. Steps up to the platform <u>shall</u> be provided. It is recommended the top of the platform be at least 18 inches long by 12 inches wide <u>and that it is adjustable to accommodate the different heights of the working referees. It should be constructed so that it presents the least potential hazard for players. Step ladders, jump boxes and other devices not specifically designed as referee platforms should not be used. If an appropriate referee platform cannot be provided, the first referee is allowed to work from the floor.</u></p> <p>Rationale: The equipment requirements should be more specific as to the referee's platform for purpose of risk minimization and to provide a platform that allows the R1 to meet his/her court responsibilities.</p>	Dru Nix, SC			
			Rule 4 – Player Equipment and Uniform				
9	15	4-1-6	<p>ART. 6...Hair devices made of soft material or unadorned bobby pins, and unadorned flat clips and unadorned flat barrettes, no longer than 2 inches, may be worn...</p> <p>Rationale: Rule would be consistent with softball which allows players more choices to control hair and poses no safety problem any more than bobby pins or flat clips. NCAA and USA Volleyball allow much more and have had no problems with safety or delays.</p>	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
10	16	4-2-1 new NOTE	<p>NOTE: <u>Beginning July 1, 2016, the uniform top shall not contain a side insert/panel, centered vertically below the armpit, made of a different color than that of the predominant color of the uniform top.</u></p> <p>Rationale: The removal of the colored insert/panel that is different from the</p>	NFHS Questionnaire			

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			<p>predominant color on the uniform top will minimize the difficulty in identifying the as many schools use reverse uniforms for libero. The July 1, 2016 implementation date will allow schools to become compliant with the rule by way of regularly scheduled uniform replacement and not an unexpected cost.</p>				
11	16	4-2-2	<p>ART. 2...The libero shall wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team. The primary color of the libero must be different from any color that appears on more than 25 percent of the body of teammates' uniform tops <u>a contrasting color at least 75 percent different from any color that is used by the other teammates. Only 25 percent of the remaining color shall be allowed to match the teammates color. In selecting the 75 percent contrasting color, there are three factors to consider: hue, value, or the lightness or darkness of a color which must greatly differ from the teammates uniform.</u> In determining the body of the uniforms, the sleeves and collar should be ignored. The libero uniform shall have a legal number. The style and trim of the libero's uniform top may differ from teammates' uniforms, but the shorts must be like-colored to teammates.</p> <p>Rationale: It continues to be a confusing issue in determining a legal uniform for the libero. This change informs the teams to use a completely different color than what the teammates are using and also includes the description of the light and dark colors. The officials need to be able to catch the libero out of the corner of their eye while watching a total of 12 players on the court. The use of a color of uniform that is 75 percent different than any color used by the teammates should be a clear message to coaches when order uniforms. We run into problems when the HOME and AWAY uniforms are the same colors, but they flip flop the colors on the designs of the uniform.</p>	Carmen Hartley, ID			
12	16	4-2-2	<p>ART. 2...The libero shall wear a uniform top that is immediately recognized from all angles as being in clear contrast to and distinct from the other members of the team. The primary color of the libero's uniform top must be different from any color that appears on more than 25 percent of the body of teammates' uniform tops. <u>The color(s) of the libero's uniform top must be different and shall not contain any color that appears on the uniform top of any other teammates.</u> In determining the body of the uniforms, the sleeves and collar should be ignored. The libero uniform shall have a legal number. The style and trim of the libero's uniform top may differ from teammates; uniforms, but the shorts must be like-colored to teammates.</p> <p>Rationale: With the use of side panels and stripes on uniform tops, quite often the colors of the team jersey and libero jersey are simply switched. Although the team</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			

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			<p>colors are clearly contrasting (blue/white, red/white) the style and use of stripes and side panels make the libero difficult to “immediately recognize from all angles” from either the stand, or the floor.</p> <p>An alternate method to assist in tracking the libero would be to limit the libero uniform top to specific colors that would completely different from any other jersey, i.e. neon yellow, green, pink, blue, orange. Again, the libero jersey, shall not have any other color that is contained on a team uniform top from other teammates. By making this change this will alleviate any problem of officials and libero trackers not immediately being able to identify and track the libero.</p>				
			Rule 5 – Officials: Responsibilities and Positions				
13	18	5-1-1	<p>ART. 1...The match is administered by the first referee and the second referee. Assistant officials include scorer, libero tracker, timer and line judges. <u>The host school is responsible for providing all assistant officials.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Schools need to assume responsibility when hosting an event & provide all assistant officials. Not only should they secure these individuals but they should also be trained in their duties. The NFHS and/or State Associations must provide tutorials or short on-line power points to assist in teaching these duties.</p>	Cheryl Gleason, KS			
14	18	5-2-1 New NOTE 2	<p><u>2. The state association may make a temporary adjustment in the officials uniform to permit the wearing of a long-sleeved, all-white collared polo shirt to address cold conditions within competition facilities.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Many times officials will be required to work in gymnasiums in which the temperature is quite cool. Rather than each official wearing different visible undergarments or different style shirts, the state association should be able to develop a policy to permit the standard style long-sleeved shirt and still maintain the integrity of the official’s uniform.</p>	NFHS Questionnaire			
15	20	5-3-4b-e Other Rules Impacted: Signal #23, #24, CB Situation 5.3.4, OM E	<p>b. At the end of the set the R1 shall blow the whistle and signal “end of set” directing <u>direct</u> players to their respective end lines. With the players remaining on their respective end lines, the R1 visually confirms the score of the set with the R2, then blows the whistle and <u>signals</u> “end of set” and <u>then</u> directs the teams to the appropriate team benches. The timer...</p> <p>c. Following non deciding sets, after the R1 has confirmed the score of the set, he/she blows the whistle and signals <u>“end of set” and directs</u> the teams to change courts. The team members...</p>	Cheryl Gleason, KS			

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		Responsibilities During Match pg. 59, OM Signal #23	<p>d. Prior to a deciding set,...benches. Following the coin toss, the R1 blows the whistle, signals <u>“end of set” and directs</u> the teams to change courts or to return to their same benches depending on the result of the coin toss.</p> <p>e. At the end...end lines. After the R1 visually confirms the score with the R2, he/she blows the whistle, <u>signals “end of set” and directs players to their respective team benches</u> <u>the net to shake hands with their opponent</u>. The first referee...</p> <p>Signal #23 – eliminate followed by a sweeping motion outward directing players to the end lines.</p> <p>OM – Signal #23 – eliminate then extend arms outward towards the end lines. Prior to the deciding set, call captains and R2 to R1 stand and release teams to benches.</p> <p>Rationale: It seems a bit odd that the R1 is signaling “end of set” before the R2 visually confirms that it is “end of set”. What if the set isn’t over? What is the signal for “not end of set”?</p> <p>I am recommending that after the apparent set point has been scored, the R2 send the players to their end lines and then, when the score is confirmed via the R2, the R1 now signals “end of set” (signal #23) followed by change of courts (signal #24).</p> <p>e. Shaking hands at the net will eliminate the congestion in the official’s table area where the officials are attempting to initial the score sheet and gather their belongings.</p>				
16	20	5-3-4b	<p>b. At the end of the set, the first referee shall blow the whistle and signal “end of set” directing players to their respective end lines. With the players remaining on their respective end lines, the first referee visually confirms the score of the set with the second referee, then blows the whistle and directs the teams to the appropriate team benches. The timer begins timing the three-minute interval between sets with the first referee’s second whistle directing teams to their team benches.</p> <p><u>b. At the end of each non-deciding set, the second referee ensures that the deciding point has been verified. The first referee gives the end of set signal, directing the teams to the appropriate team benches. The timer begins timing the three-minute interval between sets with the first referee’s whistle to change team benches.</u></p> <p>Rationale: There is currently too much time spent by the first referee trying to have the players go their respective end lines and “wait”, while the second referee confirms the final score has been entered correctly on the score sheet, then “visually confirms” with the first referee before he/she releases the players from the end line.</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			

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			<p>In some cases, the first referee will not release the players until <u>all</u> players are past the end line; sometimes either constantly blowing their whistle to gain attention of slow moving player, or by verbally calling out to them above the gym noise. It appears that more and more players are participating in “club volleyball” in the spring. Players are used to a protocol that does not have the end line requirement at the end of a set for a six month season (USAV). It is often difficult to enforce a different protocol during a season lasting less than three months (NFHS). This proposed protocol is the same protocol used at the collegiate level, which some of our players will be experiencing in their future. Let’s help them get accustom to the protocol at a higher level.</p>				
17	20	5-3-4c	<p>e. Following nondeciding sets, after the first referee has confirmed the score of the set, he/she blows the whistle and signals the teams to change courts. The team members proceed immediately to their new team benches. The players proceed counter clockwise along the sideline outside the standards, then directly to their new team benches.</p> <p><u>c. Following non-deciding sets and the first referee has signaled for teams to change courts, the team members proceed immediately to their new team benches. The players proceed counter clockwise along the sideline outside the standards, then directly to their new team benches.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Often the second referee will turn to the scorekeeper and verify the score on the scoresheet confirming the score has been entered correctly, or the scoresheet has been filled in properly. There should be no or minimum delay in waiting to confirm the score from the second referee as stated in Rule 5, SEC 3, ART 4b, (pg 21). Once the official confirms set or match point as defined in POINTS OF EMPHASIS, 4. Informal Signals – a. (pg 48), the next point scored by that team shall be determined. The second official should have made that determination with the scorekeeper, as defined in Rule 5, section 5 ART 3, n. (pg 22). This change will also save considerable time, especially when there are a total of eleven (potential) sets played between C-Team, Junior Varsity and Varsity in an evening.</p> <p>Or, simply delete ART c. completely and combine the explanation of how to change courts in ART b.</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			
18	20	5-3-4d	<p>d. Prior to a deciding set, the first referee shall call the captains to the center of the court for the coin toss with the home team calling the toss (the first referee may request the second referee to conduct the coin toss). After calling the captains, the first referee shall release the teams from the endlines to go to their team benches. Following the coin toss, the first referee blows the whistle and signals the teams to</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			

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			<p>change courts or to remain at their same benches depending on the results of the coin toss.</p> <p><u>d. Prior to a deciding set, the first referee shall call the captains to report for the deciding set coin toss; the players are released to their respective benches. The first referee conducts (or requests the second referee to conduct) a new coin toss. Following the coin toss, the second referee will indicate the results to the first referee, then he/she blows the whistle and signals the teams to change courts or to remain at their same benches depending on the results of the coin toss. The coin toss should be accomplished near the score table as to provide immediate information to the scorekeeper and head coaches.</u></p> <p>Rationale: What is the rational of the coin toss being accomplished center of the court? Some officials have gone to the first referee’s stand, so the first referee will know the results of the coin toss. Again time wasted to display a protocol. The second referee can complete the coin toss (at the request of the first referee) near the score table so the scorekeeper is able to receive the results of the toss more quickly and accurately, alleviating any possible confusion of the coin toss results.</p>				
19	20	5-3-4e	<p>e. At the end of the match, the first referee shall blow the whistle, give the end-of-set signal directing players to their respective end lines. After the first referee visually confirms the score with the second referee, he/she blows the whistle and releases the players. The first referee then verifies the score by initialing the scoresheet. <u>After the second referee has ensured the deciding point has been recorded, the first referee blows the whistle and releases the players.</u> The match becomes official when the scoresheet is initialed <u>by the first referee</u>, and no change of score shall be allowed thereafter.</p> <p>Rationale: As explained in Rationale for Rule 5, Section e, Article 4c: Often the second referee will turn to the scorekeeper and verify the score on the scoresheet confirming the score has been entered correctly, or the scoresheet has been filled in properly. There should be no or minimum delay in waiting to confirm the score from the second referee as stated in Rule 5, SEC 3, ART 4b, (pg 21). Once the official confirms set or match point as defined in POINTS OF EMPHASIS, 4. Informal Signals – a. (pg 48), the next point scored by that team shall be determined. The second official should have made that determination with the scorekeeper, as defined in Rule 5, section 5 ART 3, n. (pg 22). This change will also save considerable time, especially when there are a total of eleven sets played that night. This change will also save considerable time, especially when there are a total of eleven (potential) sets played between C-Team, Junior Varsity and Varsity in an</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			

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			evening.				
20	21	5-4-1 NOTE	<p>NOTE: The second referee has the sole responsibility to record both teams in starting floor position on his/her lineup card. <u>The lineups submitted to the scorer from each coach are in serve order ensure the players in their starting floor positions as annotated on his/her lineup card, or from the lineup sheet submitted by the coach.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Allow the use of the lineup card optional for the second referee. Along with the second referee ensuring the starting lineups are correct for both teams, the scorekeeper is also responsible for ensuring the same as stated in Rule 5, SEC 5, ART 3c. By rule, there are two individuals responsible for the correct serving order (or lineup) prior to each set. By allowing the lineup card to be optional, the second referee will use the same lineup sheet the scorekeeper uses to enter the player numbers into the scorebook. This could eliminate potential errors and unnecessary delays by the second referee in writing lineup information onto their own lineup card. In addition, matches are delayed by the second referee making annotations on their lineup cards during substitutions, time outs, or the issuance of a sanction. Also, the second referee may be too focused on their card (ensuring the correct lineup) by looking at it during play, so they may not observe nets, center line violations, balls played outside of the antenna, illegal libero replacements, etc... The second referee may also not see a request from a coach that is standing or sitting on the far end of the team bench; all these situations cause unnecessary delays, all due to the use of a lineup card.</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			
21	21	5-4-3b(9)	<p>9. Check the lineup of each team from using either <u>the lineup card or the submitted lineup sheet</u> prior to each set. Once <u>the lineup has been</u> verified, the libero may enter the set.</p> <p>Rationale: As explained in Rationale for Rule 5, Section 4, Article NOTE: Allow the use of the lineup card to be optional for the second referee. Along with the second referee ensuring the starting lineups are correct for both teams, the scorekeeper is also responsible for ensuring the same as stated in Rule 5, SEC 5, ART 3c. By rule, there are two individuals responsible for the correct serving order (or lineup) prior to each set. By allowing the lineup card to be optional, the second referee will use the same lineup sheet the scorekeeper uses to enter the player numbers into the scorebook. This could eliminate potential errors and unnecessary delays by the second referee in writing lineup information onto their own lineup card.</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			
22	22	5-4-3b(15)	<p>15. Check the scoresheet for accuracy during each time-out and at the end of each set; <u>and initial it after each set. Verify both teams' scores at the same time he/she</u></p>	David Tyner/Davine			

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			<p><u>signals the first referee of set/match point and continue to do so until the set/match is completed; then</u> and give the end-of-set signal (#23) to the first referee;</p> <p>Rationale: The R1 will no longer hold the teams at the end line while waiting for verification from the R2 as it has been completed already. Teams must still wait for the R1 to release them to their benches. Rather than holding teams at the end line while the R2 confirms the score, the confirmation should occur when the R2 informs the R1 with the set/match point signal. As the R2 checks with the scorer's table, he/she simply confirms both teams' scores with the scorer's table, the scoreboard and then signals the R1. With each subsequent set/match point, the R2 must monitor the scoreboard and communicate with the scorers if the set/match is not complete on the initial set/match point.</p>	Davis, MO			
			Rule 6 – The Team: Composition and Positions				
23	25	6-2-2 Other Rules Impacted: Add Case Book situation 6.2.2 Situation B	<p>ART. 2...<u>If a team has fewer than six eligible players due to illness, injury or disqualification after the start of a match, it shall continue play. A point/loss of rally is awarded each time the vacant position rotates to serve in the RB position. A player may re-enter the set at any time if they were removed due to illness or injury.</u></p> <p>(See proposed situation #1 below)</p> <p>Rationale: This just gives more clarification in one rule regarding a team playing with less than 6 players due to injury or illness, after the start of the match. Rule 10-3-4 does state, "An injured player who is legally replaced may re-enter the set."</p>	Carmen Hartley, ID			
			Rule 7 – Roster and Lineup				
24	28	7-1-2 Other Rules Impacted: 5-5-1c and 7-1-4	<p>ART. 2...No later than two minutes prior to the end of the timed prematch warmup, a coach from each team shall submit to the scorer an accurate, written lineup listing the uniform numbers for the six starting players in the proper serving order <u>floor positions they occupy at the beginning of the set and circle the first server</u>. Only one libero may be designated per set and must be designated on the lineup sheet prior to each set.</p> <p>7-1-4 No later than 2 minutes following each set, a coach from each team shall submit a written, accurate numeric lineup in proper serving order <u>floor positions to be copied at the beginning of the set...</u></p> <p>Rationale: After using the style of listing both teams in serving order on the submitted lineup sheet, there were still errors being made at the scoring table and/or</p>	NFHS Questionnaire			

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			by the R2 with the lineup. Returning to the previous rule will benefit the scorer and referee and eliminate and unnecessary difference from other rule codes for the officials.				
25	28	7-1-2 Other Rules Impacted: 7-1-4	ART. 2... No later than two minutes prior to the end of the timed prematch warmup, a coach from each team shall submit to the scorer an accurate, written lineup <u>or a court diagram with the first server circled</u> listing the uniform numbers for the six starting players in the proper serving order. Only one libero may be designated per set and must be designated on the lineup sheet <u>court diagram</u> prior to each set. Rationale: The linear lineup is very confusing to coaches, players, and referees since the receiving team's 1 st server actually starts in the right front (#2 position). Court diagram is easier since all players must be on the court as they are on the diagram.	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
			Rule 8 – The Serve				
26	28	8-1-1 and new NOTE Other Rules Impacted: 8-1-4 and 5	ART. 1... A serve is contact with the ball to initiate play. The server shall hit the ball with one hand, first or arm while the ball is held, or after it is released by the server. The ball shall be contacted within five <u>eight</u> seconds after the first referee's signal to serve. NOTE: <u>Only one toss or release of the ball is allowed as this action is considered to be a part of the service attempt.</u> ART. 4... A player's team...team's term of service. Each player may have only one re-serve during a team's term of service. ART. 5... A re-serve shall be called when the server releases the ball for service, then catches it or drops it to the floor. The first referee shall cancel the serve and direct a second and last attempt at serve. The server is allowed a new five seconds for the re-serve. A re-serve is considered to be a part of a single attempt to serve. Therefore, after the first referee's signal for service, no request, e.g., time-out, service order, lineup, substitution, libero replacement, etc., may be recognized until after the ball has been served. Rationale: Today's players are proficient in serving and no longer require a re-serve. The extended time to eight seconds accommodates those players executing a jump serve.	Barbara Startup, CT			
27	28	8-1-1 and 4	ART. 1... A serve is contact with the ball to initiate play. The server shall hit the ball with one hand, first or arm while the ball is held, or after it is released by the server.	Marsha Goodwin,			

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		Other Rules Impacted: 8-1-5, 8-2-5c-f, Index "reserve" and Scoring Section/re-serve	The ball shall be contacted within five <u>eight</u> seconds after the first referee's signal to serve. <u>No re-serve is allowed.</u> ART. 4...A player's term...service. Each player may have only one re-serve during a team's term of service. Rationale: Allowing 8 seconds to serve rather than five allows the player more time to prepare with an adequate toss. Eliminating the re-serve will speed up the game also. Scorers often do not record the re-serve and the 2 nd re-serve is allowed.	TN			
28	29	8-1-3 and 4	ART. 3...A team's term of service begins when a player assumes the right back position as the server and ends when a loss of rally is awarded. Rationale: Delete Article 3 and renumber as Article 4 covers the same information and adequately covers both articles.	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
Rule 9 – During Play							
29	33	9-5-1c	c. Block – the action of...contact. A block may involve wrist action provided there is no prolonged contact. Or clean up language in definition of a block. Rationale: Question: Are deflection & change of direction using wrist action the same? Deflect = to turn from a straight course or fixed direction; Deflection = to turn aside from a straight course or fixed direction; Using wrist action provides more direction vs. a hit/deflect of the ball based on the angle of the hand/arm it hits. This becomes quite confusing	Cheryl Gleason, KS			
30	34	9-5-6 new b	<u>b. Complete an attack from anywhere on or off the court, above the players' shoulder, with any contact other than a contact involving overhand finger action (two-handed pass). A one handed contact, above the shoulder (a hit) that crosses the plane of the net (ART. 4a-c) shall be illegal.</u> Reletter existing. Rationale: The libero has become an offensive position. For many schools in our area, especially in the small school divisions, the libero has become the primary back row attacker. I officiated one match at our State Tournament where the libero was the team kill and attempt leader.	John Villescascas, NM			

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			<p>The problem is that many liberos are short. Therefore, the ball is normally not totally above the height of the net. In addition, that call is difficult as the libero may be 25 feet from the net. However, as most players and coaches will attest, a player can be a very effective attacker, even when part of the ball is below the height of the net. From personal experience, including years of collegiate and decades of club ball, I rarely contact a ball that is completely above the height of the net, yet I can score plenty from both the front and back row with a hard swing and plenty of top spin.</p> <p>The libero was never intended to be anything other than a defensive player. The defense should not have to worry about the hitting ability of the libero, or set up a defense to pick the libero up. A way must be found to take this offensive weapon away from the libero position.</p> <p>Please take liberties in changing my proposal to whatever language you feel would accomplish the same goal.</p>				
31	34	9-5-7	<p>ART. 7... ...above the center line. Contacting the floor across the center line with any other part of the body is illegal. <u>Players may also touch the opponent's court with an entire foot or hand or any other body part(s) provided the encroachment does not present a safety hazard, does not interfere with the opponent and some body part is on/over the center line.</u></p> <p>Rationale: This would help bring the rules in line with the girls playing in juniors/college.</p>	Barbara Startup, CT			
32	34	9-5-7	<p>ART. 7... A player may touch the floor across the center line with one or both feet/hands provided a part of the foot/feet or hand(s) remains on or above the center line within the court with any part(s) of the body provided some part of the body remains either in contact with or directly above the center line, and there is no interference with opponents. Contacting the floor across the center line with any other part of the body is illegal. Completely crossing the center line with feet, hands, or other part(s) of the body must not pose any type of safety hazard to the player or his/her opponents. Such a hazard will result in play being stopped immediately and will be ruled as a center-line violation.</p> <p>Rationale: With skills and athletic ability rising in the game of volleyball, more players are able to make outstanding saves on balls played into or near the net. Sometimes, this results in a player's hand or foot completely crossing the center line, but not interfering at all with an opponent. Any form or interference or reckless play</p>	Kelly Callahan, DE			

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			would be penalized as always. If the goal as has been stated in previous years is to encourage play (e.g., the addition of multiple contacts now legal on the first contact), then this seems to be a change in line with that philosophy. The change would recognize outstanding athletic plays and not penalize such efforts.				
33	34	9-6-7 Other Rules Impacted: 5-4-3b(5)	<p>ART. 7...A net foul occurs while the ball is in play and:</p> <p>a. A player contacts any part of the net including net cables or net antennas <u>while in the act of playing the ball</u>. It is not a foul when a player's loose hair touches the net, or the force of a ball hit by an opponent pushes the net or net cables into the player. <u>It is not a foul if the player has returned to the floor or has completed the play and touches the net</u>. It is not a foul if the ball is not in the vicinity and the player touches the net.</p> <p>Rationale: Players should not be penalized for incidental contact which has no effect on the play of the ball and does not interfere with opponents. USA Volleyball's net violation is in extreme to the NFHS rule, but this change would be consistent with NCAA. It does not pose a safety issue.</p>	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
34	34	9-6-7 and new 8	<p>ART. 7...A net foul occurs while the ball is in play and:</p> <p>a. A player contacts any part of the net including net cables or net antennas. It is not a foul when a player's loose hair touches the net, or the force of a ball hit by an opponent pushes the net or net cables into the player.</p> <p><u>ART. 8...Contact with the net by a player is not a foul unless it is made while playing the ball or it interferes with play.</u></p> <p>Rationale: This would help to bring the rules in line with girls playing in juniors/college. This violation usually stops a great rally, after a player makes a great play.</p>	Barbara Startup, CT			
35	34	9-6-7 and new 8	<p>ART. 7...A net foul occurs while the ball is in play and:</p> <p>a. A player contacts any part of the net including net cables or net antennas. It is not a foul when a player's loose hair touches the net, or the force of a ball hit by an opponent pushes the net or net cables into the player.</p> <p>b. A player gains an advantage by contacting the floor/wall cables, standards or first referee's platform;</p> <p>c. There is dangerous contact by a player with the floor/wall cables, standards, or first referee's platform;</p> <p>d. There is interference by a player who makes:</p> <p>1. Contact with an opponent which interferes with the opponent's legitimate effort to play the ball;</p>	Kelly Callahan, DE			

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			<p>2. Intentional contact with a ball which the opponent has caused to pass partially under the net or into the body of the net and the opponent is attempting to play it again.</p> <p><u>ART. 7... Contact with the net by a player is not a fault, unless it is made during an action of playing the ball or faking a play on the ball; the player gains an advantage; there is dangerous contact with floor/wall cables, standards, or first referee's platform; or there is interference. Playing the ball may include actions in which the player(s) does not actually touch the ball.</u></p> <p>Deleted ART. 7 becomes new ART. 8 and new #3</p> <p><u>ART. 8...</u>A net foul occurs while the ball is in play and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. A player contacts any part of the net including net cables or net antennas. It is not a foul when a player's loose hair touches the net, or the force of a ball hit by an opponent pushes the net or net cables into the player. b. A player gains an advantage by contacting the floor/wall cables, standards or first referee's platform; c. There is dangerous contact by a player with the floor/wall cables, standards, or first referee's platform; d. There is interference by a player who makes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact with an opponent which interferes with the opponent's legitimate effort to play the ball; 2. Intentional contact with a ball which the opponent has caused to pass partially under the net or into the body of the net and the opponent is attempting to play it again. 3. <u>Contact with the net which interferes with play.</u> <p>Rationale: The net foul rule discourages players from contacting the net while making a play on the ball. It is to keep the net clear while net play develops. Unfortunately, the current net foul rule penalizes a player that might turn and brush the net well after making a play on the ball. This net contact creates no advantage for the player contacting the net and presents no disadvantage for the opponent. It also has no impact on the play or flow of the game as a whole. Actually, the second referee may often be the only one noticing this contact (as the ball is often not near the net at that point) and causes the flow of the game to be stopped. Any action which is egregious or presents some sort of disadvantage for the opponent will still be penalized. Any action involving net contact while making a play on the ball will also be penalized as always. If the goal as has been stated in previous years is to</p>				

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			encourage play (e.g., the addition of multiple contacts now legal on the first contact), then this seems to be a change in line with that philosophy. These inadvertent touches of the net that do not affect the play at all should be ignored and play should be allowed to continue.				
36	34	9-6-7	<p>ART. 7...A net foul occurs while the ball is in play and:</p> <p>a. A player, <u>in the act of playing the ball or interferes with play,</u> contacts any part of the net including net cables or net antennas. <u>Playing the ball may include actions in which the player(s) does not touch the ball.</u> It is not a foul when a player's loose hair touches the net, or the force of a ball hit by an opponent pushes the net or net cables into the player.</p> <p>Rationale: Allowing "incidental" contact with the net eliminates the violations when a player brushes the net while getting in position or in recovery after playing the ball and such contact has no effect on play and does not create an advantage, but allows a good rally to continue.</p>	NFHS Questionnaire			
37	36	9-9-1 and PEN Other Rules Impacted: 4-1-9 PEN 2-3, 4-2-10 PEN 1-2, 10-2-7 PEN 1-2, 10-3-7 PEN 1, 10-4-5 PEN 1, 11-2-4 Pen 1-2	<p>ART. 1...Unnecessary Delay <u>warning/delay penalty</u> includes, but is not limited to when:...</p> <p>PENALTY: For a coach, player, substitute or team charged with unnecessary delay <u>warning/delay penalty,</u> a time-out shall be assessed and the 60 seconds given. If the team has used two time-outs, loss of rally/point is awarded to the opponent and the set is resumed immediately. a yellow card is shown on the opposite wrist for the 1st offense, for the warning, and a red card is shown for the 2nd penalty with a loss of rally/point awarded to the opponent. Both are recorded on the scoresheet but do not carry over from set to set.</p> <p>Rationale: Unnecessary delay is a double penalty, penalizing the team for the actions of an individual. Coaches need time-outs – warning/pt. is more fair.</p>	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
			Rule 10 – Substitution and Libero Replacement				
38	40	10-4-3a	<p>...by the player whom he/she replaced <u>and must be listed on the roster as a possible libero.</u> A new libero may then...</p> <p>Rationale: Rules must state libero number is different from regular jersey number, can't use the same number if redesignated libero.</p>	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
			Rule 11 – Time-Outs and Intermission				

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39	42	11-3-1	<p>ART. 1... To review a decision by a referee that may have resulted in an incorrect decision, the head coach may request and be granted a time-out, provided the request is made during the dead ball immediately following the situation in which the possible incorrect decision occurred. When a time-out is so granted, the head coach shall confer with the first referee at the first referee's platform <u>second referee regarding the official's decision.</u> <u>The second referee will inform the first referee of the head coach's disagreement of the decision.</u> If the conference results in the first referee altering the ruling, the opposing coach shall be notified by the second referee, the revision made and the time-out charged to the referee. <u>At the discretion of the first referee he/she may have the head coach and second referee report to the stand to clarify the decision.</u></p> <p>Rationale: Please give strong consideration for changing this rule. By allowing a head coach to step on the court and approach the first referee's stand, it may give the appearance the head coach is in control of the match and give the perception the first referee's inability to call a fair match. As an example, if the head coach is granted a time-out, then walks across the court directly to the referee's stand with a rulebook in-hand, then points out the rule in question to the first referee, the spectators will also question the official's future decisions. Regarding this rule, the head coach has unlimited review challenges; especially if the coach is more knowledgeable of the rules than the officials themselves. The perception may lead to reality toward the officials for the remainder of the match, as well as future matches with that same coach, team, or spectators.</p>	Stephen Franco/Gary Tripp, NM			
			NFHS Official Volleyball Signals				
40	61	Officials Signal 21b Other Rules Impacted: Case Book Signal Chart	<p>Delete use of team Time-Out signal and just use Officials Time-Out.</p> <p>Rationale: Eliminates an unnecessary additional signal.</p>	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
			RULES CHANGES				
			Case Book/Officials Manual				
			E – Responsibilities During the Match				
41	59	E, First	When it appears a team has won the set, the first referee shall remain on the referee	Carmen			

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		Referee (R1), 5 th paragraph	<p>platform, blow the whistle and give the end-of-the-set signal directing the players to their respective end lines. After visually confirming the score with the second referee, the first referee blows the whistle, gives end-of-set signal and releases the teams from the court. <u>and directs the teams to the appropriate team bench area.</u></p> <p>Rationale: This area was discussed last year in detail at our National meeting in Indy. The way it is written now the official actions would be as follows: 1. Blow the whistle 2. Give end of set signal 3. Confirm the score with R2 4. Blow the whistle 5. Give end of set signal again 6. Release the teams from the court The order should be the same except 5 and 6 which should read: 5. Directs the teams to the appropriate team bench area</p>	Hartley, ID			
42	59	E, Second Referee (R2)	<p>Second Referee (R2): When the players are signaled onto the court, the second referee, without competition volleyball in hand, shall move onto the serving team's side of the court <u>to the sideline of the receiving team or the serving team</u> to check that team's lineup. The second referee shall check the receiving team players' position against the lineup card, and then move to the serving team side to check their positions <u>sideline of the opposing team and check the team players' position against the lineup card.</u> Using a cupped "c" and player's number as described under informal signal, identify the floor captains to the first referee. Following the lineup check of both teams, the second referee <u>returns the lineup cards to the score table and takes possession of the competition volleyball and</u> rolls the ball to the first server.</p> <p>Rationale: This change in protocol for the second referee would eliminate a variance that would require officials to assimilate differing pre-set protocols from rule set to rule set. It also allows the second official to readily indicate, via hand signals, the court captain, to the first referee without the ball impeding their actions. Additionally, it doesn't really matter which team is checked first. Also, it keeps the official off of the playing area and in a position to potentially interfere with a player on the court or result in any type of accidental contact with those players and allows the official's view of the court to be unimpeded by the net or the standard.</p>	Louis Ventura, CA			
G - Signals							
43	68	Volleyball Signals #1	<p>1. Illegal Alignment/Improper Serving Order-Server: Make a slow circular motion with arm and hand outstretched on the side of the violating team, palm</p>	Kelly Callahan,			

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			<p>down; then point towards the player(s) involved.</p> <p>Illegal Alignment— At the moment the ball is contacted for the serve, there is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overlapping by adjacent players other than the server • Positioning of any player other than the server outside the boundaries of the playing area. • An improper server. <p><u>Also used to indicate:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A libero replacement takes place after the whistle/signal for serve.</u> • An illegal <u>libero</u> replacement is discovered in the game <u>set</u>. • <u>Failure to submit an accurate lineup.</u> <p>PENALTY: Loss of Rally/Point</p> <p>Rationale: There are actually a few changes here. The first is to remove Illegal Alignment being listed prior to the “At the moment the ball is contacted” phrase to indicate that one of the bullets actually applies to the Improper Server portion of the signal and not the Illegal Alignment portion.</p> <p>The next change is to clarify that Illegal Alignment is the penalty for a libero replacement that takes place after the whistle/signal for serve regardless of whether or not the ball is contacted for serve. The next change is simple as it adds the word libero and changes game to set.</p> <p>The last part is the more substantial change and addresses a communication issue officials are currently experiencing with a particular situation. This would be a procedural or mechanics change for officials to better communicate with each other, coaches, players, and spectators. Currently, if a team fails to submit an accurate lineup as prescribed by rule, they are penalized a point. This happens, for example, when #5 is on Team A’s lineup, but #5 does not exist and #15 is actually standing on the court in that position. There is no signal provided in our manual or procedure defined on how we communicate that penalty. We are starting the set with a point to the opposing team and sometimes this forces the loss of serve for the offending team (if they had first serve for the set). Most involved just see a point go on the scoreboard to start the set and may see the opposing team rotate if they will now have serve and it often raises some confusion among participants. The second referee will explain the penalty and what happened to all participants, but spectators are often left wondering what happened. In addition, the first referee is often left wondering what they should do as far as signals go to indicate some sort of penalty has occurred. The illegal alignment signal seems to be a logical signal in this case</p>	DE			

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			<p>as it is used for incorrect servers, illegal replacements after the whistle/signal for serve, etc. and the team has submitted an incorrect lineup. The procedure would be that the second referee would still explain as needed to all participants and then the officials would signal illegal alignment on the offending team with a point resulting for the opponents.</p>				
44	70	Volleyball Signals #10	<p>10. BALL TOUCHED - The hand on the side of the offending team is held beside the head with the palm toward the face, then brush upward across the fingertips one time with the other hand, palm forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used to indicate a touch off of a block or team's first <u>or</u> second or third contact with the ball landing out of bounds on that team's side of the net. <p>Penalty: Point/Loss of Rally</p> <p>Rationale: When a ball is out-of-bounds, the signal is # 14 (Out-of-Bounds). When a ball is touched and then lands out of bounds, it is dead because it lands out-of-bounds, not because it is touched. The signal should be #14, not #10. Signal #10 should not be eliminated; it is a very helpful signal utilized by the officials and line judges during the match. However, the penalty attached to this signal should be eliminated because every touched ball does not land out of bounds. There is no other signal given to signify that a ball is out-of-bounds other than #14. Each time there is a dead ball, three things happen: 1. Sound whistle; 2. Signal the violation; 3. Signal point/loss of rally or replay Each step is one action/signal. There are not 2 signals given; however the ball isn't dead because it was touched – it is dead because it is out-of-bounds.</p>	Cheryl Gleason, KS			
45	71	Volleyball Signals #14 Other Rules Impacted: Volleyball Signals #13	<p>14. OUT-OF-BOUNDS/ANTENNA VIOLATION – Raise both hands head high, fingers together, palms toward face, elbows bent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>The ball crosses completely under the net (other than serve)</u> <p>13. BALL LANDS INBOUNDS –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ball passes completely under the net (other than serve). <p>Rationale: For a ball crossing the center line in the NFHS rule set the current signal for NFHS (Signal 13) as defined by the case book is not appropriate and is not universally recognizable within the total community of the sport of volleyball. Since the ball has not landed in-bounds it should not be signaled as such. Instead, the ball has crossed the center line and has become dead. Signal 2 should be utilized and the signal should be given pointing to the center line.</p>	Louis Ventura, CA			

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EDITORIAL CHANGES							
Rules Book							
Rule 4 – Player Equipment and Uniform							
1	15	4-1 new NOTE Other Rules Impacted: 4-1-4 and 4-1-8	<p>NOTE: Each state association may, in keeping with applicable laws, authorize <u>exceptions to NFHS playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs, as well as those individuals with unique and extenuating circumstances. The accommodations should not fundamentally alter the sport, allow an otherwise illegal piece of equipment, create risk to the athlete/others or place opponents at a disadvantage.</u></p> <p>ART. 4...Each state association may authorize the use of prostheses which in its opinion are no more dangerous to players than the corresponding human body part(s) and do not place an opponent at a disadvantage.</p> <p>ART. 8...Modifications of player equipment/accessories or uniform (due to medical, special needs or religious reasons), pending approval, shall require a letter of authorization from the state association and shall be made available to the referees at or prior to the prematch conference.</p> <p>Rationale: Clarifies that an individual state association may authorize exceptions to the playing rules to provide reasonable accommodations to individual participants with disabilities and/or special needs or other unique and extenuating circumstances. Such exceptions are not considered rules modifications since they are not general in nature; rather, they are limited to the circumstances of specific individual participants.</p>	NFHS Rules Review Committee			
Rule 5 – Officials: Responsibilities and Positions							
2	20	5-3-4d	<p>d. Prior to a deciding set, the first referee shall call the <u>playing</u> captains to the center of the court for the coin toss with the home team calling the toss (the first referee may request the second referee to conduct the coin toss). After calling the <u>playing</u> captains, the first referee shall release the teams from the endlines to go to their team benches. Following the coin toss, the first referee blows the whistle and signals the teams to change courts or to remain at their same benches depending on the results of the coin toss.</p> <p>Rationale: This editorial change would be consistent with Rule 6-3-1 that states in part, "...A playing captain shall be designated by each team, and this is the only player who many communicate with the referees."</p>	Don Warkentin, CA			
3	22	5-5-1c	...proper service order. Prior to each set of the match, the scorer shall provide the	NFHS			

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			second referee with a lineup, which lists the players' numbers <u>in floor position to start the set and the serving order and the number of the libero, if being used,</u> of each team. Rationale:	Questionnaire			
			Rule 6 – The Team: Composition and Positions				
4	26	6-4-3a	a. All players, except the server and including the libero, shall be within the team's playing area and may be in contact... Rationale: It is not necessary to list the libero separate from other players on the court since the libero is considered a player on the court.	NFHS			
			Rule 8 – The Serve				
5	29	8-2-5d Other Rules Impacted: 6-4-6 PENALTY 2	d. Is out of serving order or is from the wrong team; (Signal 1, Illegal Alignment/Improper Server; 6-3 PENALTY 2 <u>6-4-6 PENALTY 2</u>) 6-4-6 PENALTY 2 2. For an improper server or illegal replacement found in the set, loss or rally/point shall be awarded as soon as the improper... Rationale: Reference is to the wrong rule. Also, in the rule reference, the penalty is incorrect, as it only awards a loss of rally instead of the appropriate loss of rally/point.	Louis Ventura, CA			
			Rule 9 – During Play				
6	30	9-2-2	After each set, teams <u>the players</u> shall line up on their respective end lines. Rationale: Consistent use of the term players as defined by the 2010 rules change.	NFHS			
7	36	9-9-1g	g. A team repeatedly uses illegal <u>improper</u> substitution procedure; Rationale: A procedure is not illegal but can be proper or improper.	NFHS			
			Rule 12 – Conduct				
8	46	12-2-9 Procedure for Unsporting Conduct Violations #3	3. Warning: ...No penalty <u>point</u> is assessed. Rationale: Corrects omission of the word point.	Marsha Goodwin, TN			

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Instructions for Scorer							
9	52	Scoring, paragraph 2 Other Rules Impacted: Scorebook Instructions	...exceptional substitution, red and yellow cards or an unconscious/apparently unconscious player should be noted , <u>a player removed under concussion management or re-designation of the libero shall be recorded</u> in the Comments section... Rationale: Updates language to be consistent with Rule 10-3-5.	NFHS			
10	53	Definitions for Scorer Other Rules Impacted: Scorebook Instructions	Point: A point is awarded when the receiving team <u>opponent</u> violates a rule during play or a dead ball. Rationale: Updates definitions from side-out volleyball scoring.	NFHS			
11	53	Recording Comments paragraph 1	...cards issued for unsporting conduct, <u>player removed under concussion management</u> unconscious/apparently unconscious player or an... Rationale: Updates language to be consistent with Rule 10-3-5.	NFHS			
12	53	Recording Comments new paragraph	...scoresheet. <u>Exceptional substitutions shall be recorded as ES and player's number replaced by the exceptional substitute. (e.g. ES #20 means #20 was replaced by exceptional substitute.)</u> Cards for... Rationale: Directions on recording exception substitutions were not included in the rules book.	NFHS			
How to Use the Signals							
13	62	How to use the Signals #15	Verbalize except #15, signal to serve. Rationale:	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
14	62	How to use the Signals #24	24. Teams Change Courts – Raise forearms and swing right arm in front of the body and the left arm in back of the body <u>with open hands</u> . Rationale: This editorial change would clarify that the NFHS prefers the first referee	Don Warkentin, CA			

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			to use open hands for signal #24. (See picture on page 61).				
15	63	Instructions for Libero Tracker	Revise as duplicated on pages 57-58. Rationale:	Marsha Goodwin, TN			
			EDITORIAL CHANGES				
			Case Book				
16	53	The Second Referee Should #3	3. ...The benches should be placed at least 6 feet from the court boundaries (10 feet preferred) outside of the out-of-bounds extension of the center line <u>attack lines</u> . Rationale: Corrects the reference to proper out-of-bounds boundary.	Bethany Schott, CO			
17	62	Substitution Procedure #9	9. The second referee returns to his or her <u>his/her</u> position on the side of the receiving team and <u>indicates/signals</u> ready to play to the first referee. (Informal signal) Rationale: Grammar correction.	Bethany Schott, CO			
18	65	Use of the Whistle #4	4. ... Neither does the second referee repeat the signal for serve (No. 5) or repeat the begin serve or net foul signal (No. 6) <u>Second referee does not repeat the signal for serve or begin serve (No. 15), nor is the signal for net serve repeated (No. 6).</u> Rationale: Improves the sentence structure, corrects signal number (No. 5 should be No. 15) and clears up conflict that the R2 does not repeat the signal for a net serve but does repeat the signal for a net foul.	Bethany Schott, CO			
19	69	Net Foul/Net Serve 3 rd bullet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Served ball touches or passes under the net. • <u>Served ball touches net and does not go over or passes under the net.</u> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Served ball goes into net and not over or passes under the net.</u> Rationale: With a serve, the ball may touch the net, and go over the net and be legal. The statement should be reworded to reflect a net foul occurring when the ball touches the net and does not go over.	Bethany Schott, CO			