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2026-27 NFHS Volleyball Rules PowerPoint

Rules Changes
Editorial Changes
Points of Emphasis

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 - National leader and advocate for high school athletics and performing arts programs.
 - Serves 51 state associations, 19,983 high schools and 12 million student participants.
 - Writes playing rules for 18 high school sports for boys and girls.
 - Offers online education courses for high school coaches, officials, parents, students and others.
 - Ensures that students have opportunity to enjoy healthy participation, achievement and good sportsmanship in education-based activities.



NFHS Rules Review Committee

- The NFHS Rules Review Committee is chaired by the chief operating officer and composed of all rules editors. After each committee concludes its deliberations and has adopted its recommended changes for the subsequent year, such revisions will be evaluated by the Rules Review Committee.



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Chief Operating
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Boys & Girls Lacrosse
and Volleyball



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NFHS Publications



- The NFHS writes playing rules for 18 sports for boys and girls at the high school level.
 - Publishes 2 million pieces of materials annually.



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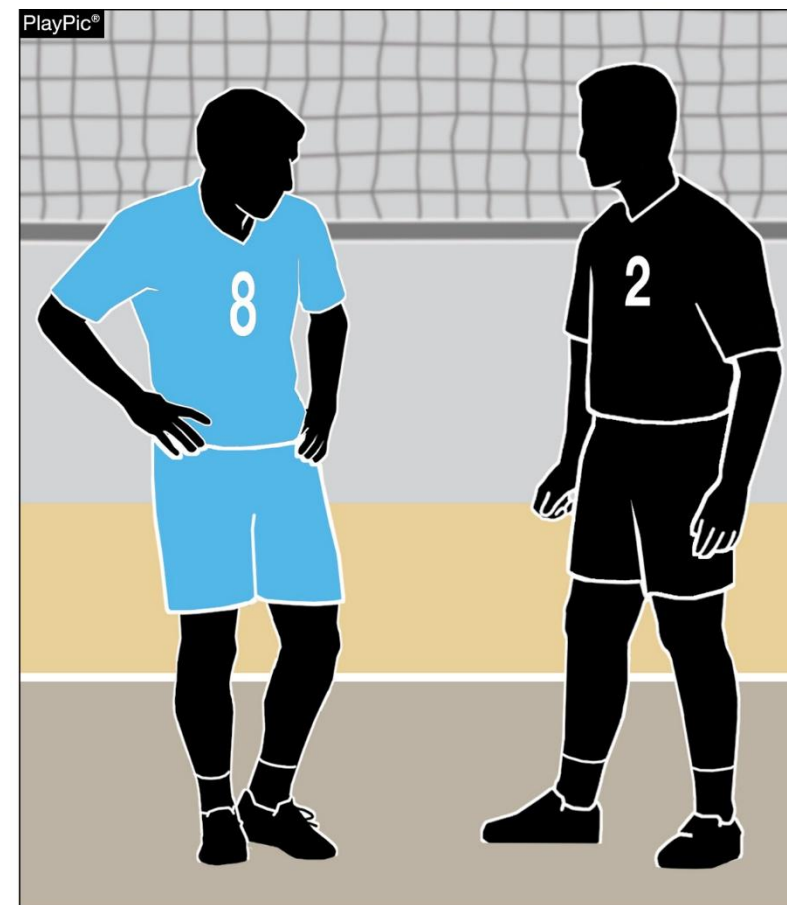
2026 NFHS Volleyball Rules Changes



LEGAL UNIFORM

4-2-1a, 4-2-1i(3) (NEW), 4-2-2

- Libero uniform bottoms may be any color and are no longer required to match the team uniform bottoms.
- When two liberos are designated, there is no requirement that both liberos wear the same color uniform bottom.

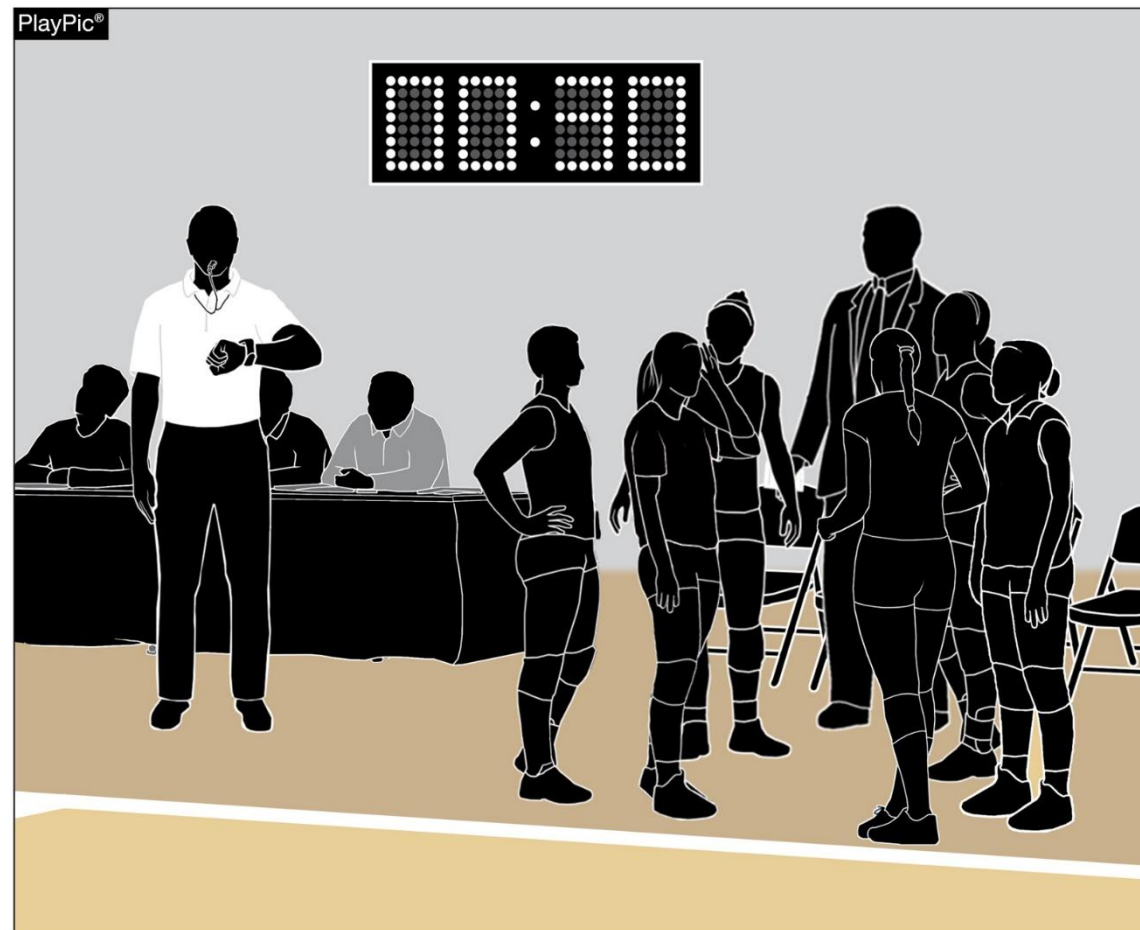


SECOND REFEREE RESPONSIBILITIES

5-5-3b(21)



- Between sets, the second referee will provide a double whistle warning at two minutes, 30 seconds (4:30 when intermission is used) instead of 2 minutes, 45 seconds.





PLAYER POSITIONS

5-7-3c, 5-7-3d, 6-4-2, 8-1-6, 9-8-2, 10-3-6c, 10-4, 11-4-1b

- A team may designate up to two liberos, but only one libero can be in the game at a time.
- When two liberos are designated, either libero may serve in one position in the serve order. If the L1 and L2 serve, they must serve in the same position throughout the set.

Team: EAGLES
Set: 1

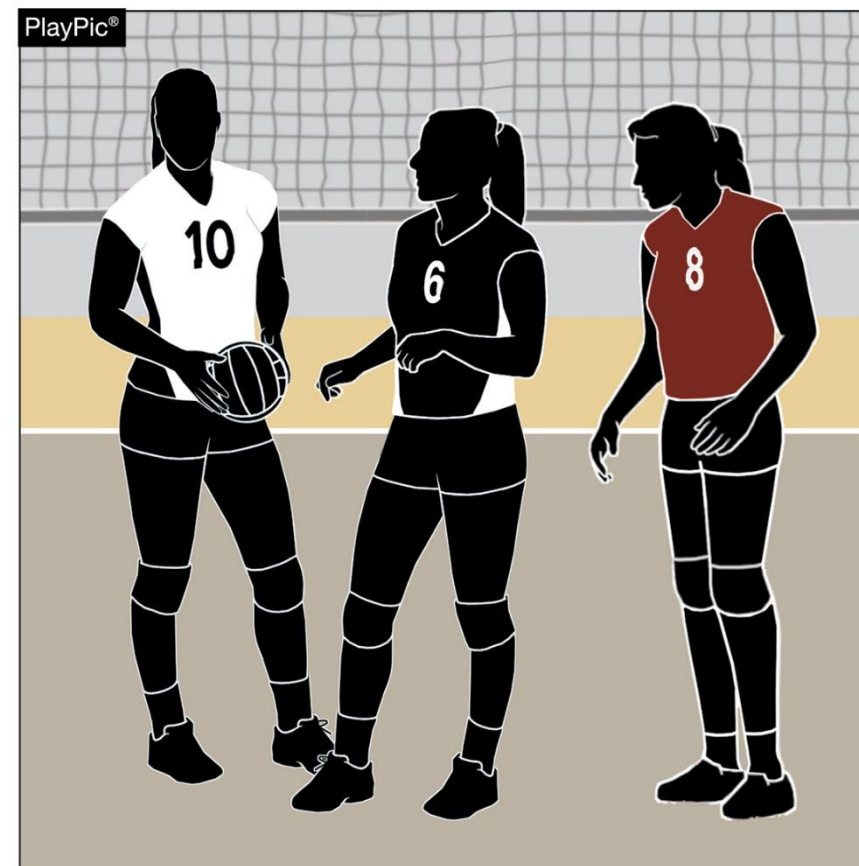
L1: 14
L2: 9
Check one:
Serve ☐
Receive ☐

SERVE ORDER	PLAYER NO.
I	<u>7</u>
II	<u>13</u>
III	<u>19</u>
IV	<u>21</u>
V	<u>4</u>
VI	<u>6</u>

PLAYER POSITIONS

5-7-3c, 5-7-3d, 6-4-2, 8-1-6, 9-8-2, 10-3-6c, 10-4, 11-4-1b

- Each libero may wear a different uniform, as long as that uniform clearly contrasts from non-libero teammates.
- A libero may not wear a number that a non-libero teammate is wearing, and each libero uniform must be a different, unique number.





PLAYER POSITIONS

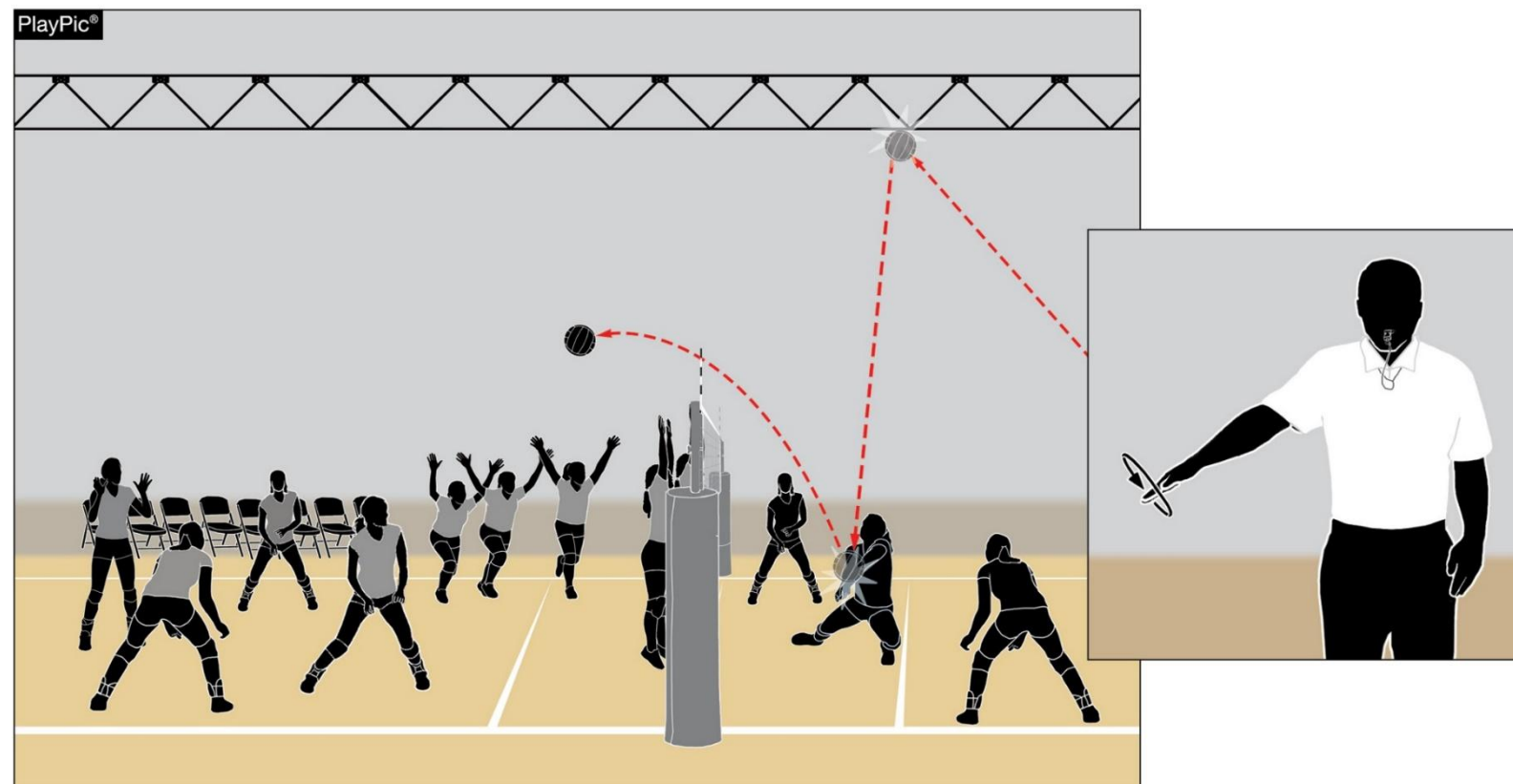
5-7-3c, 5-7-3d, 6-4-2, 8-1-6, 9-8-2, 10-3-6c, 10-4, 11-4-1b

- When a team designates two liberos and one is injured/ill, a new libero may be re-designated.
- When a team designates two liberos and one is disqualified; the team must continue with one libero.

PLAYER POSITIONS

6-4 PENALTIES 1c (NEW), 12-2-8b NOTE (NEW)

- If non-playing teammate(s) (bench players) enter the court during play, it is illegal alignment.
- A loss of rally/point is awarded to the opponent.



PLAYER POSITIONS

6-4 PENALTIES 1c (NEW), 12-2-8b NOTE (NEW)

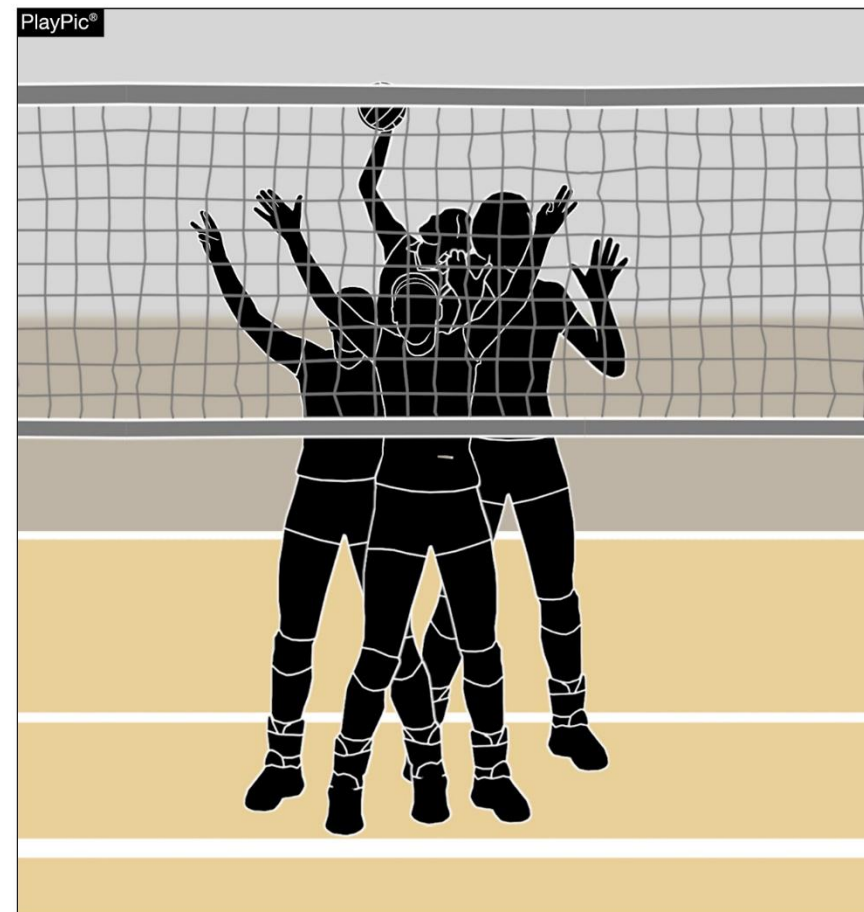
- It remains a conduct violation if a coach or team attendant (anyone not in uniform) enters the court while the ball is in play.



SCREENING

6-5-1

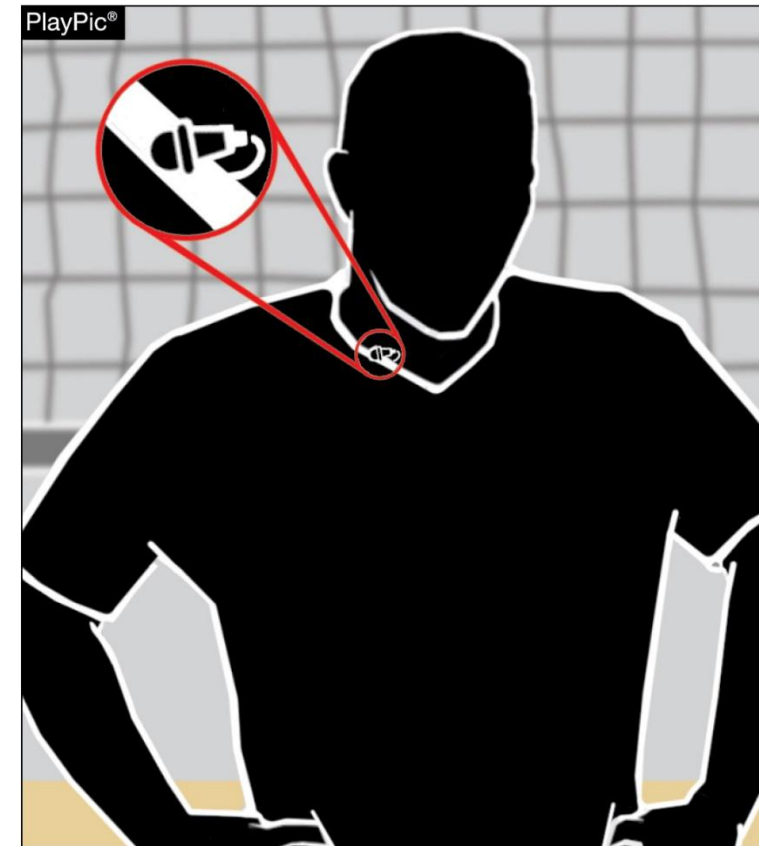
- Players on the serving team are not permitted to raise their hands above their heads during service until the ball has passed beyond the net.
- Players may quickly raise their hands above their heads to give hand signals and then lower their arms immediately.
- Players may also stand with their hands locked together behind their heads to protect the back of their heads during service.



COURT PROTOCOL

9-2-1 NOTE 1 (NEW)

- Players shall not wear any audio or video devices during the match.
- If referees notice devices on players prior to the match, they should notify the coach to direct the player to remove the device.
- If discovered during play, the player should be assessed an unsporting conduct penalty.

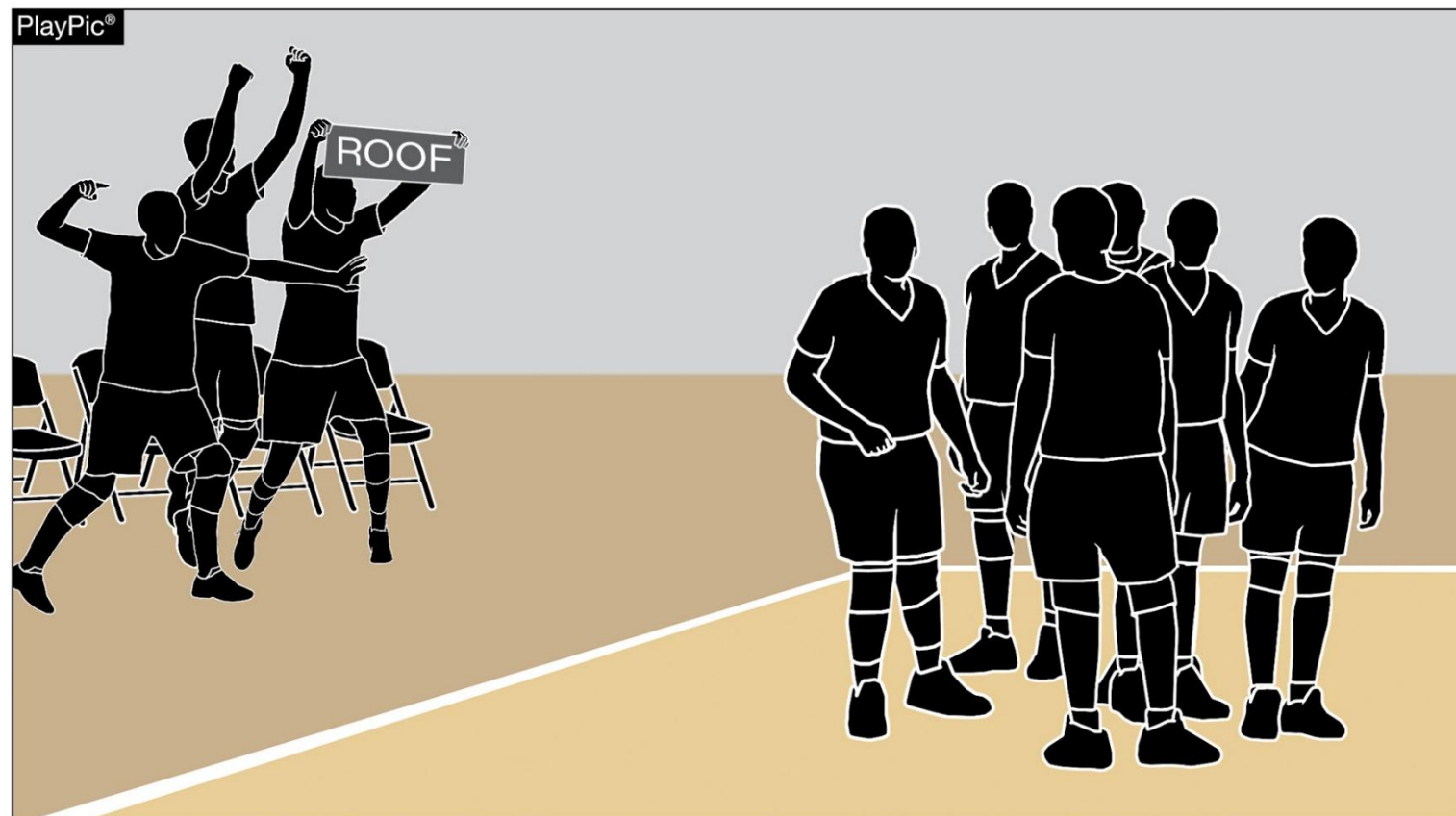


CONDUCT: PLAYERS, COACHES AND/OR TEAM ATTENDANT

12-2-8m (NEW)



- It is an unsporting conduct violation if coaches, non-playing teammates or team attendants use props on the bench during celebrations.





Rules Reminders

THE BALL

3-2-1 NOTE

- Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, state associations may adopt the use of a non-smooth or textured volleyball. There are no restrictions on color or shape of panels for textured volleyballs.



LEGAL UNIFORM

4-2-4b



- Numbers with a leading zero (01, 02, 03, etc.) will be non-compliant beginning in 2028. Legal uniforms must be numbered 0-99.
- The use of the number double zero (00) on uniforms is illegal.

LEGAL UNIFORM

4-2-4d, f



- Beginning July 1, 2029, the number on the front of the uniform must be centered on the upper half of the uniform top, eliminating the measurement requirements from the shoulder seam to the neckline.



2026 NFHS Editorial Changes



Editorial Changes

- **1-5-1** – Added language within *Section 5: Termination of Set/Match* from 5-4-4d stating that the match becomes official and there shall be no change of score after the scoresheet is initialed by the second referee.
- **5-2-1b** – Clarified current language when a fault is whistled by the second referee.
- **5-4-3c(1)** – Clarified procedural language now that entire teams are allowed to stand on the end line during the prematch ceremony.
- **5-4-4a** – Rewritten for clarity.



Editorial Changes

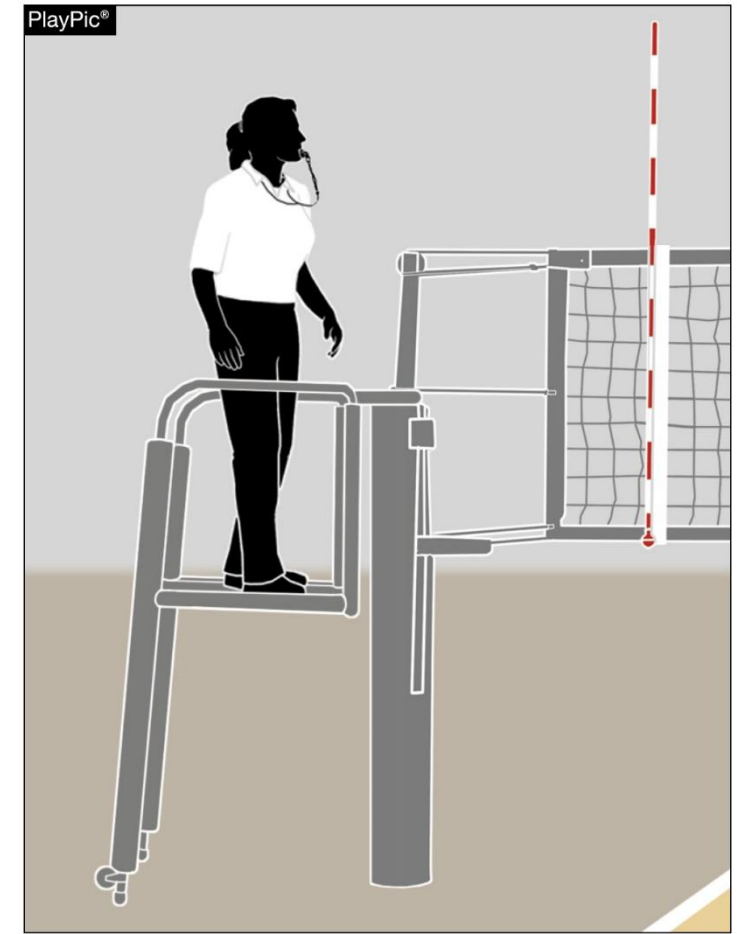
- **7-1-1a, 7-1-1 PENALTIES 3, 7-1-2a, 7-1-4 PENALTIES** – Rewritten for clarity.
- **9-9-1h** – Corrected language due to 2025-26 rule change for an illegal replacement attempting to enter the set.
- **12-2-8** – Replaced “substitutes” with “non-playing teammates” to more appropriately describe teammates who are on the bench.



2026 NFHS Volleyball Points of Emphasis

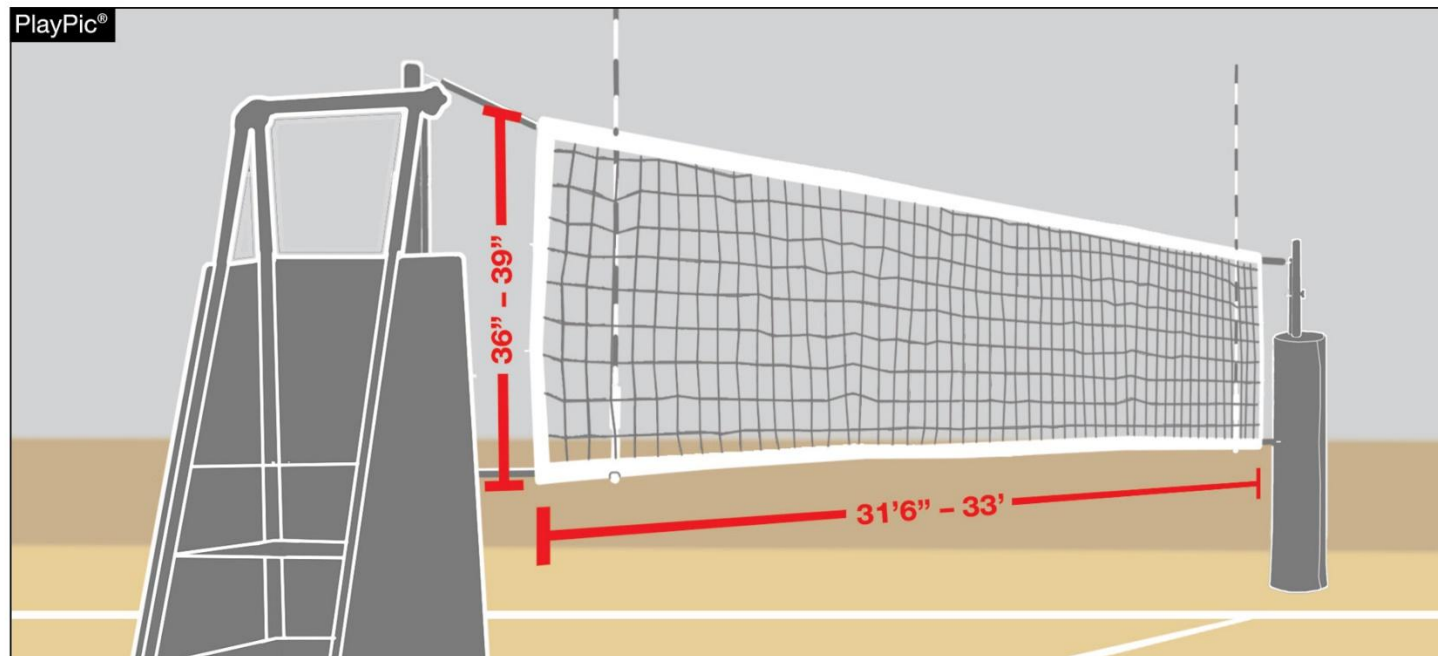
HOST MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

- By rule, hosts must provide a safe, stable platform. The first referee (R1) should carefully examine the stand prior to the match, and if the R1 determines that the platform is unsafe, the match will still go on, and the R1 will work from the floor.
- Referees should not use ladders, chairs, boxes, trash cans or similar substitutes that could endanger the well-being of the official.



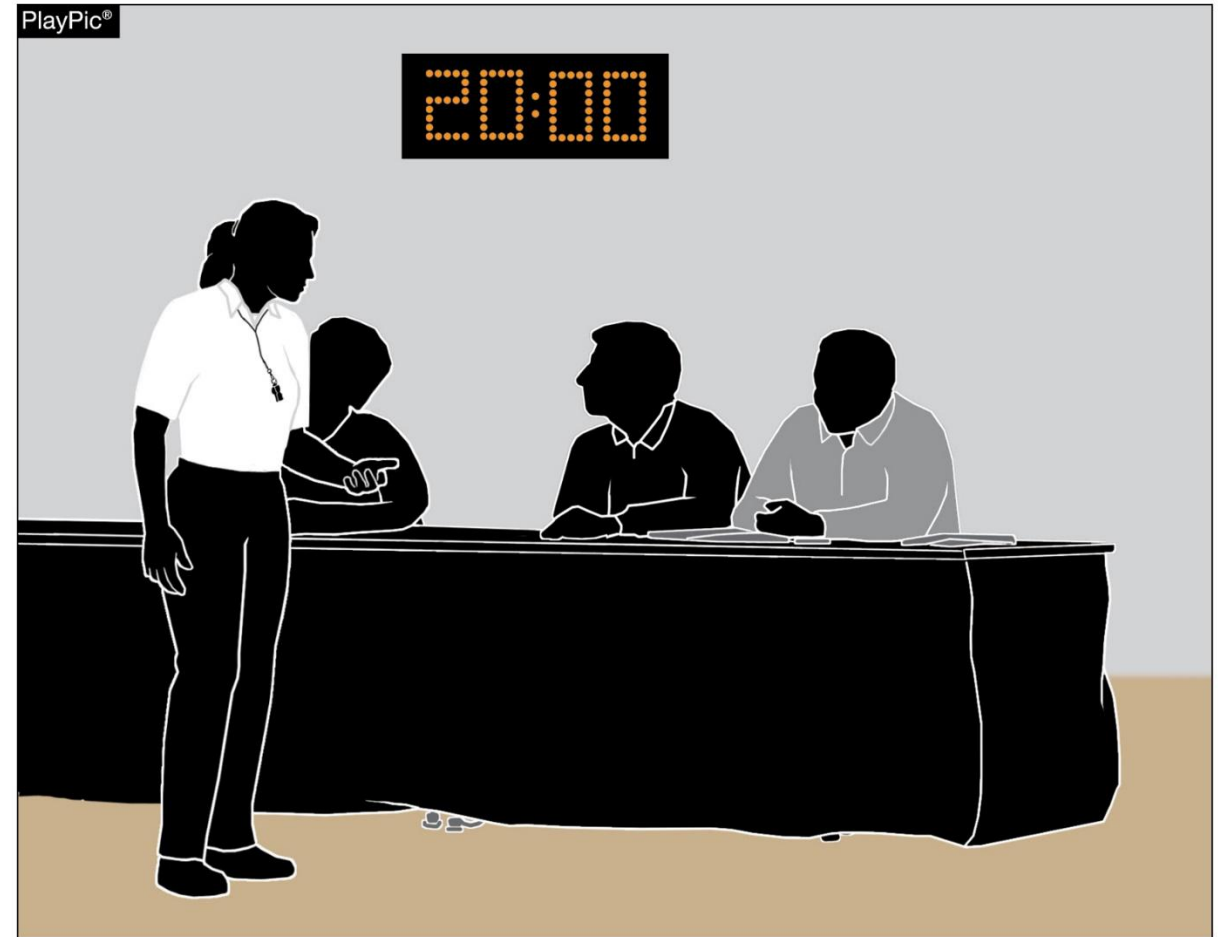
HOST MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

- Regularly evaluate volleyball equipment for signs of wear like frayed nets or cables, posts that are bending inwards, and padding that no longer protects or fits tightly — plus any parts that no longer hold proper tension. Any time you see a post or net that has been taped or improvised to keep it working, it is a sign the system is not performing — or protecting athletes and officials — the way it was designed to and should be replaced.



HOST MANAGEMENT BEST PRACTICES

- To set the match up for success, it is imperative that assistant officials (scorer, libero tracker, timer and line judges) are secured by host management and have reported to the first referee no less than 20 minutes prior to the starting time.



ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- At no time during the match may an official use an electronic device to review a decision of the referee.
- At no time shall the first or second referee consider replay.





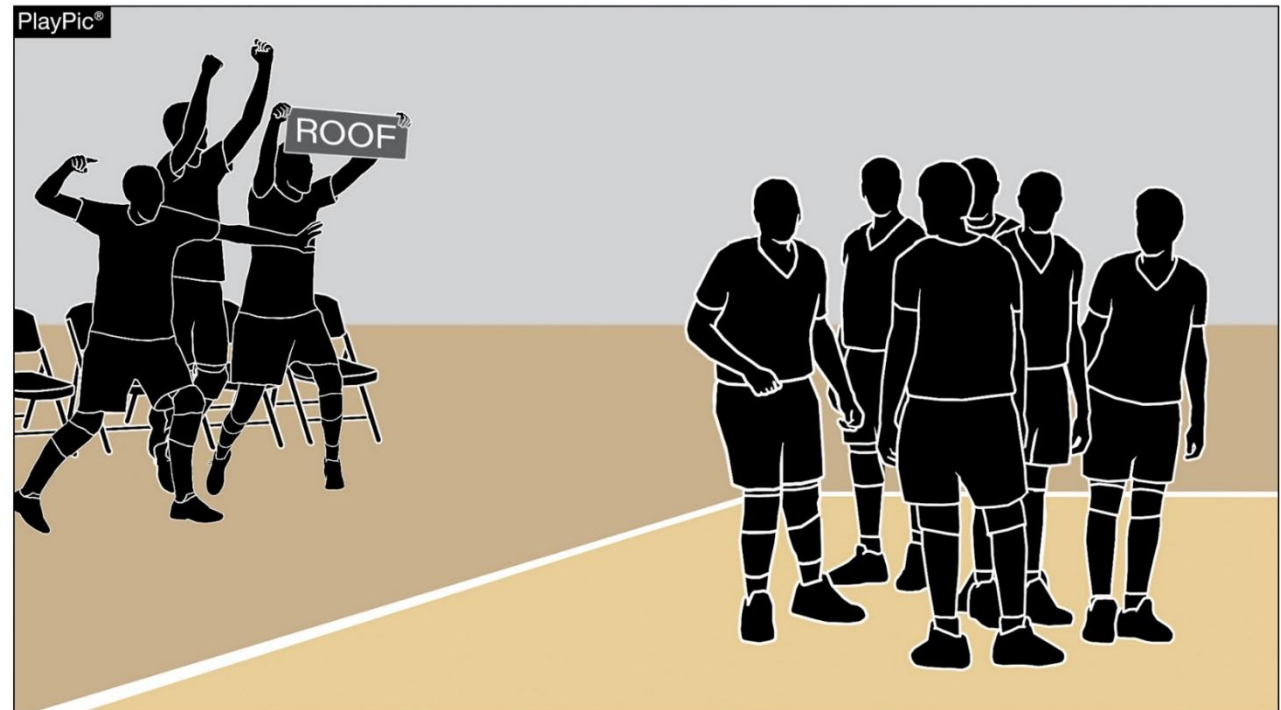
Electronic Devices

- A team may use electronic devices during the match as long as they are not in restricted areas as determined by the host and as long as the first referee determines that they are not interfering with the contest.
- Referees are permitted to wear headsets for communication purposes. [Officiating Volleyball: Using Wireless Communication](#)
- State associations may have policies to further address the allowance and/or restriction of electronic device use during matches.

BENCH PERSONNEL – NON-PLAYING TEAMMATES



- Non-playing teammates (bench players) and other bench personnel have a role to positively support their teammates by celebrating and encouraging those playing on the court with spontaneous cheers.
- It is not legal for anyone on the bench to use props.
- A towel is athletic equipment and is not considered a prop if used in conjunction with a spontaneous celebration.



BENCH PERSONNEL – NON-PLAYING TEAMMATES



- Game officials shall not address spectators at any time; however, referees have the responsibility to notify game management of any spectator misconduct.
- Unsporting conduct by spectators is the responsibility of the host management. In the absence of host management, the responsibility for addressing spectator behavior shall revert to the host head coach.



IDENTIFICATION OF THE NFHS AUTHENTICATING MARK ON GAME BALLS



- All game balls are required to display the NFHS Authenticating Mark.
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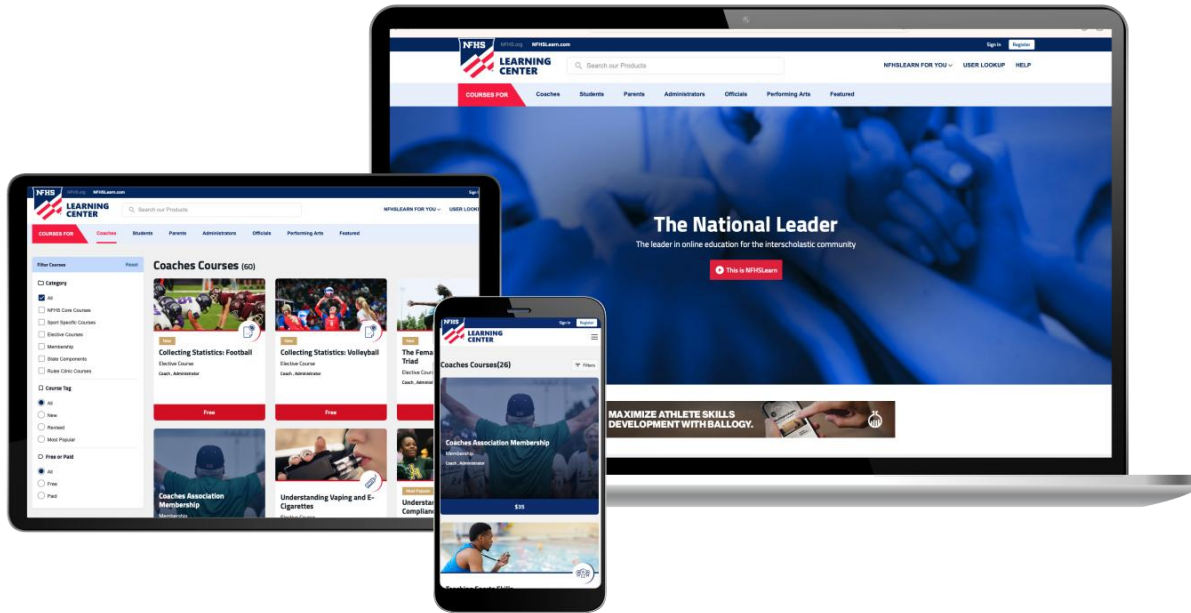
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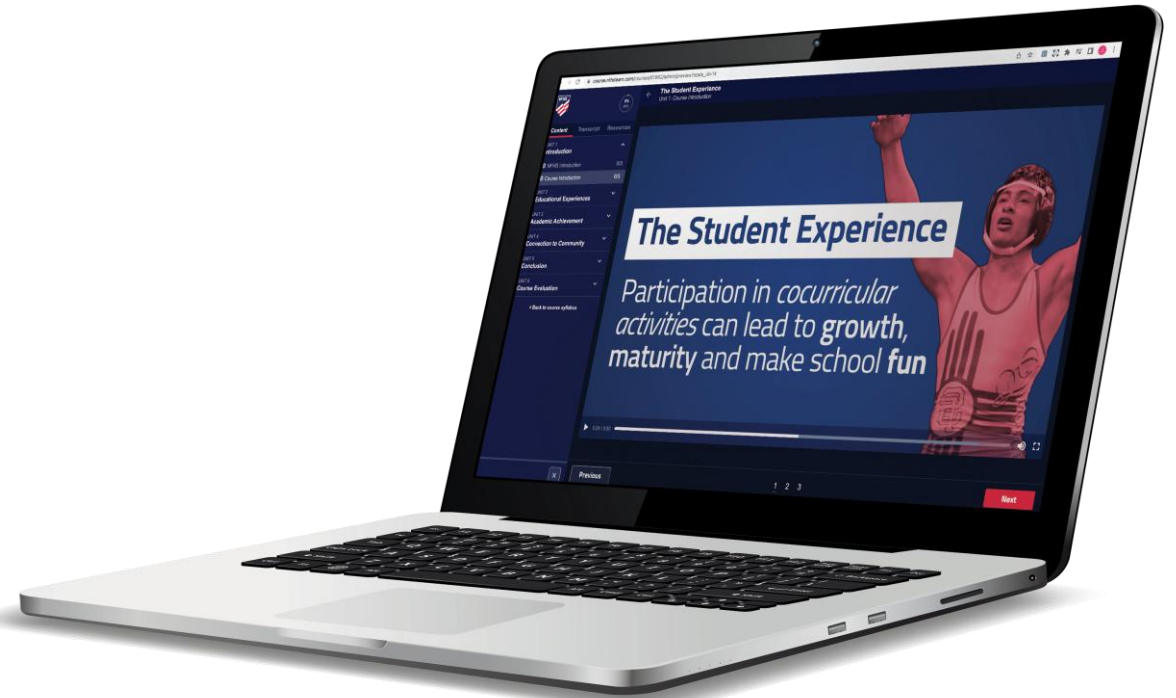


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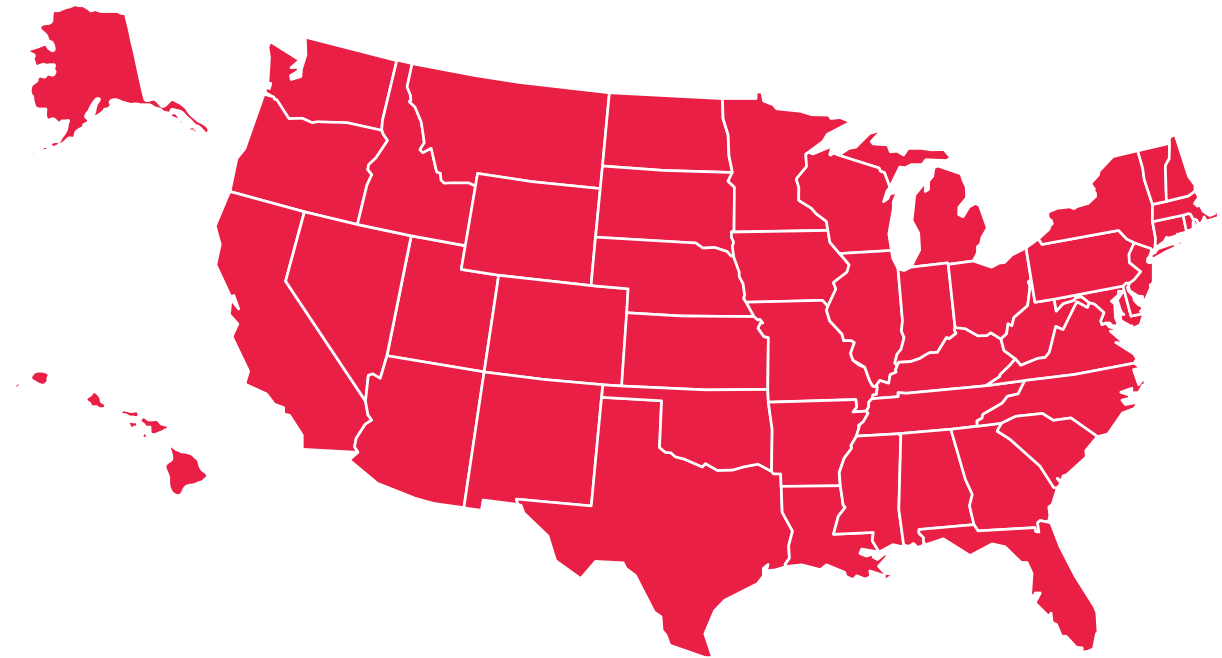


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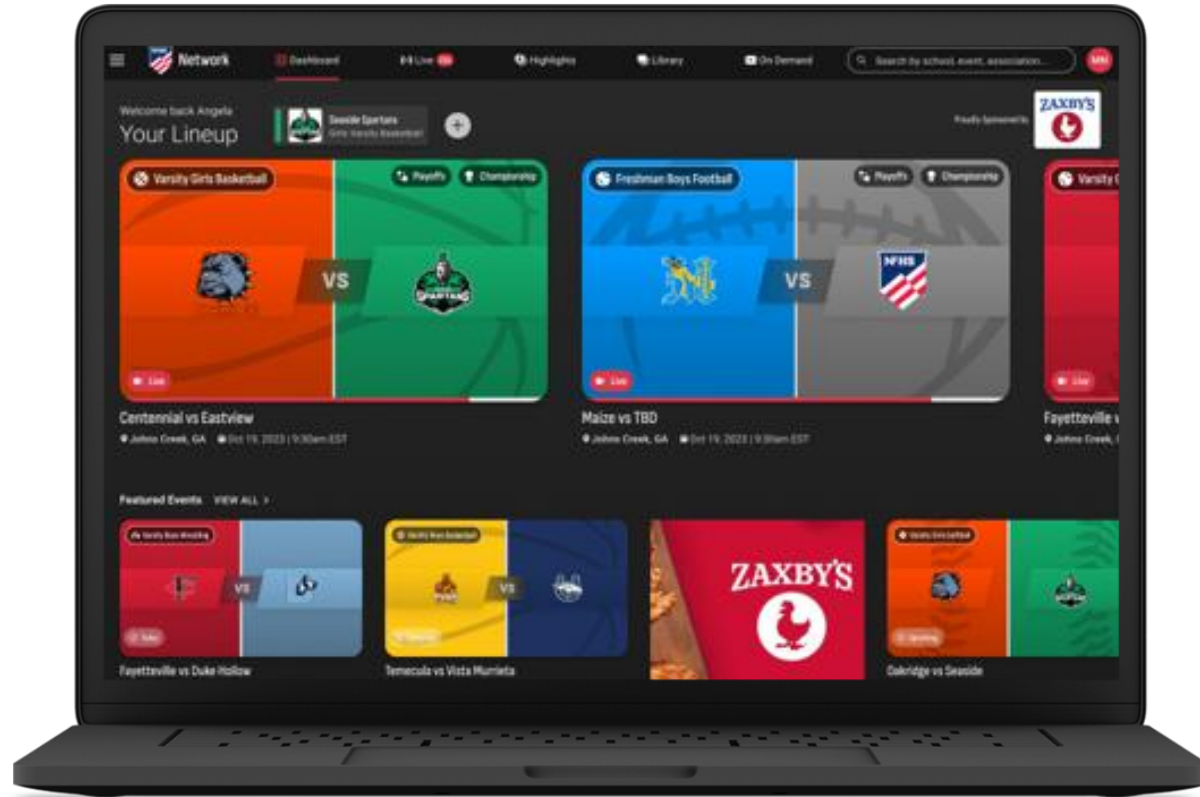
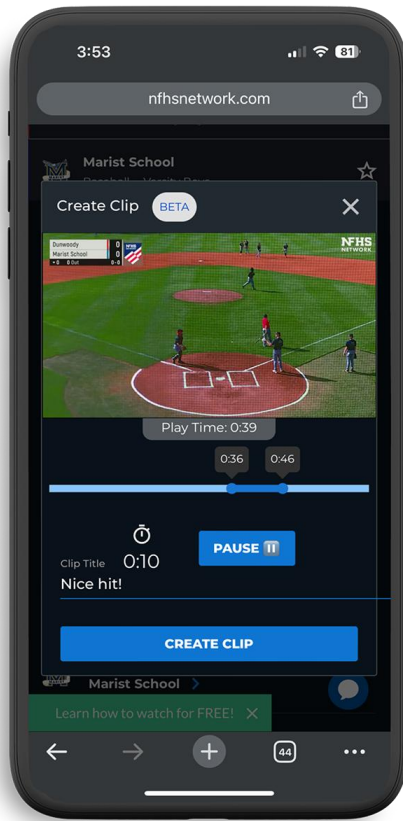
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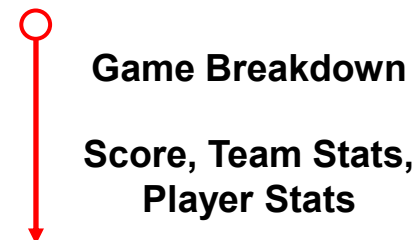
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NFHS Authenticating Mark Update



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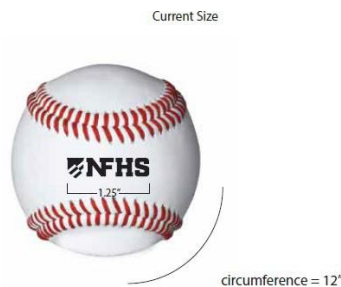
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