

# Amendments to the National Federation of State High School Association Volleyball Rules For the Central Mississippi Volleyball Association/Madison Ridgeland Youth Club

## Recreational League Rules

This is a very shortened and basic form of the rules used by referees in calling volleyball. The actual rule book is much longer, but these are the basics with a couple of changes specific to CMV/MRYC. Each scorer's table has been furnished with a copy of the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) rule book.

1. A roster of all team players who are present at the game shall be turned in to the scorekeeper with the line-up and the correct serving order prior to each set.
2. A team shall consist of six (6) players on the court at one time.  
In the event that a team does not have 6 players, they may play with 5 players using a "ghost player" on the court, without having to forfeit the match.
  - a. The ghost player will rotate in the lineup – no position may be skipped over.
  - b. The ghost player will be the #6 position in the lineup. When it is time for the ghost to serve, the opposing team will get a point (lost serve of the ghost player) and the ball. (NFHS Rule 12 Section 2 Article 6)
  - c. If a player comes late to a game, they may be inserted into the lineup for the ghost player only after a full rotation has been completed.
3. Unless a team member is injured or ill, every team member must play a regular rotational spot in each set. The injured or ill player should leave the bench area or report to the scorekeeper so that she may be identified on the official scorebook. (1-3-3/6-4-5)
4. A ball is considered to be **IN** if **ANY** part of the ball is on the line that delineates the playing area of the court. Girls **MAY** play a ball that is out of bounds IF they have hits remaining.
5. Played balls **MUST** go over the net and between the antennae. A ball played over the net that is outside the vertical plane of the antennae, or which hits an antenna, shall be considered out.
6. Only players playing front row may attack or block a ball at a level above the net. Players playing back row may attack the ball if they do so from behind the 10' attack line. (NFHS Rule 9 Section 5 Article 3)
7. Players may **NOT** touch the net during play, with the exception of inadvertent contact by hair.
8. Players at the net may step **on** or **above** the center line, as long as they do not step beyond the center line, or contact the net with any body part other than hair.
9. Only three hits per team are allowed, with no player able to contact the ball in two consecutive hits. **NOTE: This does not apply to blocked balls at the net** – blocked balls may be hit consecutively, and blocks do not count toward the three hits.

10. Players may not reach over the net to play a ball that is **completely** on the other side of the net unless the opponents have no hits remaining. Once the ball has broken the plane of the net however, either side may play it if there are hits remaining.
11. In the case of basketball goals or other obstructions lower than 24 feet hanging **OVER** the playable area of the court, a re-serve may be called **IF** in the judgment of the referee, the ball may have been playable by a player, **and** there was a hit remaining. If, in the referee's opinion, no player had a play on the ball, **OR** the ball would have carried out of play, then side out and the point would be awarded to the opponent.
12. The 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade divisions **MAY** use a libero; they must provide a libero jersey after the first week of the season. Jerseys must be of a strongly contrasting color to the normal jersey color of the team. Teams will use the official **CMVA/MRYC** provided libero jerseys. Jerseys **MUST** be numbered with a number not in use by another member of the same team. A libero must follow **NFHS** libero rules, as outlined in the NFHS handbook; coaches should know those rules.

For parents who do not understand the libero position, it is basically a player that may substitute freely on the back row without counting as a substitution, and need not check in. A libero may only serve **once** per six rotations, and must follow all rules of play that apply to a back row player.
13. Balls must be contacted cleanly, with no double hitting allowed. If a ball is contacted simultaneously with two hands, that is legal, as long as 1) underhanded, the hands are in proper locked position, and 2) overhand, the contact is clean in a setting position, with contact coming out cleanly. **Referees signal a foul of this rule by holding up two fingers.**
14. An exception to the double hit rule exists on **first contact**. Served balls and attacked balls are exempted by the first player to make contact. Though quick double hitting is allowed for first contact, it does not exempt a player from **improper** contact. If the referee deems that the ball visibly comes to rest or has prolonged contact with any part of the body, improper contact shall be called.
15. Balls played with open palms facing upward may be called for improper contact, if in the judgement of the official, such contact is prolonged and not cleanly hit. **Referees signal a foul of this rule by holding out the palm facing up.** Balls striking any part of the body with prolonged contact will also be called in this manner.
16. All serves must be contacted before entering the playable area of the court. The end line is considered as part of the playable area of the court.
17. Points will be scored on every serve, regardless of who served. Such rally scoring was adopted by the NFHS volleyball rules committee back in the early 2000's.
18. Sets are played best 2 out of 3 to **25** points, with the winning team needing to win by 2 points. If a third set is necessary, the set will be played to **15**, with a 2 point margin of victory needed to win.
19. Decisions by the official will be final; there shall be no arguing from coaches or fans. Coaches will be assessed a delay of game, given a yellow card, and penalized a point for arguing calls. No exceptions.
20. Each team shall provide a line judge of at least **13 years of age**, and preferably an adult, who is expected to call balls down the lines fairly and impartially. **The referee has the authority to overrule a**

**line call if he/she so deems it necessary.** Rules for line judges shall be given to the line judges ten minutes prior to match time.

21. All behavior on the court shall be of an appropriate nature. Improper language, taunting, or unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind may result in a player or coach's ejection from the match. If deemed serious enough, said player/coach will not be allowed to continue playing MRYC/CMV Volleyball.
22. Modified serving line for 5<sup>th</sup> grade division: Players may serve up to 5 feet inside the end line (25 feet from the net). All other divisions shall serve from the standard 30 foot end line unless specifically noted otherwise.
23. The following net heights shall be applied for each of the specified age divisions:

Division	Net Height
1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	6'6"
5 <sup>th</sup> grade	7'
6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	7' 4 1/8"
8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	7' 4 1/8"